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COMMENTARY ON CONTROL OF THE PRESS

Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 12 Jan 81 pp 8-10

[Article by Salah Hafiz: "A Director General for the Egyptian Press!"]

[Text] We used to dream that the Fourth Estate would be as President Sadat announced it would be--that is, the press as a center and source of authority. But all of a sudden the Advisory Council--may God forgive it--transforms this source of authority into an authority which sits on the neck of the press!

When we journalists heard the president speak, we interpreted his words to mean that we, like judges, members of the Assembly, and ministers, would enjoy the same immunity that they do and that we would be held to account in the same fashion that they are. We thought that our Supreme Council would be like the Council of Judges, the Council of Deputies [Assembly], and the Council of Ministers [Cabinet]. We thought that our Supreme Council would protect us from interference when performing our duty, would make sure that we are committed to the principles of honor, integrity, and the values of our society, and would discuss the question of which material means are necessary in order to enhance the level of our achievement of our objectives. Above all, we thought that our Supreme Council would represent us when dealing with the other three estates within the government.

But the Advisory Council understood this in precisely the opposite way. It formulated legal provisions which would turn our Supreme Council into an authority to which we would be subordinate, not into an authority which would represent us. It was the understanding of those who formulated the provisions of the law that what was necessary was to have the council administer our press organizations and determine their policies, work regulations, and the manner in which they perform their work. They also want this council to appoint whomever it wishes to in the press organizations, to transfer whomever it wishes to from these organizations, to deal directly with any of the organizations' employees, and to even have control over the organizations' projects and how they invest their money.

Thus the beautiful golden dream burst like a bubble.

So the press, instead of becoming the Fourth Estate, saw the appearance of a fourth center of authority to which it became subordinate--in addition to its traditional

subordination to the authority of the judiciary, parliament, and [executive branch of the] government. So our Supreme Council is not a council which protects the journalistic community, functions as a parliament for the journalists, and represents the authority of the press when dealing with the three other estates or centers of authority. The level of our council has been abased, its mission has been abased, and its distinguishing attribute has been abased. It has become merely a new administrator which directs the affairs of all of Egypt's newspapers!

The Egyptian Press's National Egyptian Agency!

Yes, indeed. These legal provisions have relegated to a lower level the Supreme Press Council which we were all dreaming of and looking forward to.

This has created an atmosphere in which the level of everything is tending to decline. There has also been a decline in the level or position of the president of the board of every newspaper. According to these new legal provisions, he has become merely a bureau chief for the Press Council. This means that he carries out what the council orders him to do, sends reports to the council, does not initiate any project before getting permission from the council, does not publish any administrative decision or order without sending a copy of it to the council, etc.

The position of the chief editor has also declined. According to the provisions of the law he has been transformed into being merely a secretary for the "Editorial Council." This means that he carries out what he is ordered to do by the council, reads the articles [published by his newspaper] in order to guarantee that they are not contrary to the policy of the council, and then sends them to the printing presses and sees to it that they are printed--even if he disagrees with the policies which these articles express. It is true that the courts in Egypt regard a chief editor as bearing total responsibility for what his newspaper publishes. But that's all right--let the Editorial Council set the policy and have the chief editor be thrown into prison because of it!

It would be nice if this were the only inconsistency in the provisions of the law put forth by the Advisory Council. The provisions of the law consist of nothing but inconsistencies, from beginning to end. The reason why they have so many inconsistencies is the fact that they demonstrate a lack of understanding and knowledge about the profession of journalism, both as a craft and as an occupation.

Take, for example, the insistence on the part of these legal provisions that a journalist not be allowed to receive a fee which amounts to more than his [monthly] salary. This stipulation shows a lack of understanding of the fact that a newspaper might spend 1,000 pounds to buy a photograph, from a photographer whose [monthly] salary is no more than 50 pounds, because this photograph has media value as far as the news is concerned or else has unusual artistic value. And the provisions of the law fail to understand the fact that such a photographer, if prohibited from receiving the fee which he wants, can secretly sell the picture to another newspaper for which he does not work, whether the newspaper is in Egypt or in a foreign country. Let us take another example. Our press organizations are supposed to adjust their regulations so that they conform to "standard regulations" which will

be set down by the council. Now, in the name of God, is it possible to have standard regulations which are suitable both for the magazine SAMIR and the magazine OCTOBER? How is it possible to have the same work regulations for a daily newspaper like AL-AHRAM AND a specialized weekly publication such as AL-KAWAKIB? How is it possible to have a uniform system of rules both for a newspaper in which all of the writers are employees, as is the case with, for example, the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH, and for a publication where none of the writers are employees, as is the case with the journal DIRASAT ISHTIRAKIYAH [Socialist Studies]? Let us take still a third example--how an Egyptian writer is supposed to deal with foreign publications. The provisions of the law demand that this writer receive authorization from the Press Council, that he fill out a form in which he states why he is going to write for this foreign publication, what publication it is, how much the foreign publication will pay him, how long he will be writing for it, and what his justifications are [for working for the publication]. The provisions of the law also demand that the writer enclose, along with the form, documents which give proof of what he has stated in the form. After all of this, the council will refer the matter to the press organization in order to find out its opinion. After the press organization gives its response, the matter is referred to the council which then meets and renders its decision by means of a majority vote!

All of these procedures, which would take at least 3 months, are not only necessary when a journalist wants to work as a permanent correspondent for a foreign publication. They are necessary even if he wants to write only one article. It makes no difference whether he is writing the article for a fee or free of charge. So if an intellectual struggle is being waged in the Gulf Arab press or in the French press, and an Egyptian journalist wants to write an article in either the Gulf or French press and give his opinion, then first of all he has to fill out these forms and then wait until these procedures have been gone through and he has received his approval. It is as if the law concerning the Fourth Estate has been passed in order that Egyptian writing and Egyptian thought be withdrawn from the journalistic arenas of both the Arab world and the rest of the world. It used to be that he plunged into this arena by choice and played his role there, but now he has to get permission to do so, otherwise his own country will penalize him!

These, of course, are not the only inconsistencies in the provisions of this law. But we think it is sufficient to quote these examples lest we give our readers a headache. We believe that it is sufficient to quote them in order to demonstrate the fact which we want to bring out--namely the fact that those who formulated the provisions of the law have no understanding of the nature of the work which goes on inside newspapers and other publications, and do not know anything about the atmosphere, practices, circumstances, and traditions of this profession which have become established throughout the years of the proud history of journalism.

They have taken away journalism's quality of being a craft and a mission. They have started treating our community of journalists as if they were a "National Egyptian Newspaper Printing Agency." They consider journalists to be people who occupy slots and grades, and consider them to be public employees who will be retiring at the age of 60. They have forbidden them, like government employees, to engage in work other than that which is done for the "Public Press Department" which engages their services. This would prohibit them from spreading Egyptian culture in

foreign countries, asserting the existence of Egyptian intellectual thought in the world alongside the ideas of the world's other nations, and guaranteeing that this intellectual thought contributes to the foundation of building our modern world civilization.

We are not the only victims.

Another victim along with us has been the Supreme Council itself--our council which we had been dreaming of having as a meeting place for our community of journalists, as our organization of intellectual leadership, and as our conscience which would both represent society in the domain of our profession and would represent us within the domain of society. They have transformed our council--may God forgive them for this--into merely another administrator of press organizations who is entrusted with the daily affairs currently conducted by such administrators, merely becomes another of their number, and creates an administrative organization parallel to their organizations. This opens up the door to administrative neglect, conflicts, and the establishment of centers of influence. This is the type of thing which we have been suffering from in our profession for a quarter of a century, and we were hoping that the law concerning the "Fourth Estate" would at last put an end to this for us.

Journalism Is One Thing, But a Press Council Is Something Else!

Yes, we did have our dream.

Our dream, as President Sadat put it, was a rosy dream and was extremely beautiful.

The council, which we had been hoping would represent us as the Fourth Estate, was transformed, in accordance with the logic of the provisions of the law, into another --fourth--center of authority to which we will be subordinate just as we are subordinate to the other three centers of authority.

We must give credit to the formulators of the provisions of the law for being both honest and very clear in that they brought this fact out into the open.

In order to make it clear to us that the council does not represent us, the formulators of the provisions of the law stipulated that all of the council's meetings should be secret and that we, the journalists, would not be allowed to attend the meetings! And if the council, by way of exception, were to hold an open meeting, then journalists [attending the meeting] would not be allowed to write anything about it other than what would be contained in the official report which would be distributed to them at the conclusion of the meeting by the chairman of the council.

In order that we not cherish any false hopes and have the idea that the council is our meeting place, our fortress, and our patron, the provisions of the law stipulate that when the council summons us we have the right to be accompanied by a lawyer or a representative from the Journalists' Union. That is to say, when the council summons us to appear before it, we, along with our lawyer and union representative, will be on one side of the table, and the council and its people will be on the other side.

In order that we understand that the council is of a stripe other than our stripe, the provisions of the law stipulate that the council can deal with any journalist individually, whether he is a chief or a subordinate, but we and those in the government would not be allowed to communicate with anyone in the council other than with the chairman of the council. All of our dealings with the council will have to take place through this council chairman. This shows the degree to which the provisions of the law are anxious to emphasize that we journalists are in one camp and our Supreme Council is in another camp.

It also shows the degree to which the provisions of the law are frank in declaring that the council does not represent us, but rather rules us, and is not a body which represents the Fourth Estate, but rather is a body which represents a fourth center of authority to which we are subordinate in addition to the other three estates or centers of authority.

The Dream and the Truth

In other words, what happened is that we mentally had prepared ourselves to become the Fourth Estate and then the provisions of this law, in the Advisory Council, came along and surprised us by subordinating us to an additional center of authority.

The People's Assembly had passed a law which had brought the press up to its level and treated us journalists as being equal to and on a par with the members of the People's Assembly. Then there appeared the provisions of this law which lowered the level and position of the press to a level even lower than that of the man in the street. The man in the street is subordinate to three centers of authority in the government, but the press is subordinate to four such centers of authority.

We thought that the Press Council would liberate us, protect us, and give us its support and backing. But the provisions of the law provided us with a new boss who will administer the affairs of our organizations and decide for us both what we can and cannot write and what we can and cannot earn.

Perhaps our Egyptian readers do not know that the set of laws which limit the freedom of journalists in Egypt is larger than the set of laws which limit the freedom of any other category of Egyptian citizens, whatever profession they may engage in. But we journalists are aware of this unfortunate fact. We were elated when President Sadat came out with his courageous and new idea that the press should be the nation's Fourth Estate and that it should be on an equal footing with the other three estates--the legislative, executive, and judicial powers.

As far as we were concerned, this idea was for us a dream in every sense of the word. It meant that we would finally shoulder our responsibilities and exercise them. It meant that our words would have weight, what we would write would become of importance, and the members of our profession would enjoy official standing that would be protected by the nation's constitution. And this was after the people, in a general plebiscite, had voted in favor of this idea of official standing for journalists.

The provisions of the law, which the members of the Advisory Council now are eagerly voting in favor of, are cruelly destroying this dream of ours. They are jolting us so that we will wake up--like the Seven Sleepers [mentioned in the Koran]--and discover a new world of journalism other than that which we had before we went to sleep and which we were dreaming about!

STRIPPING AGRICULTURAL LANDS FOR BRICK MAKING DISCUSSED

Cairo AKHIR SA'AH in Arabic 24 Dec 80 pp 28-29

[Article by Muhammad Taha: "Stop the Destruction of Our Agricultural Lands!"]

[Text] "Stripping" Is a Plague Which Is Threatening Egypt's
Agricultural Lands.

Our Lands Are Eroding Away and Disappearing.

This "stripping," which is devouring our agricultural lands, is a plague which must be stopped immediately.

"Stripping" is the process of plundering the soil and clay of agricultural lands in order to turn the soil and clay into red bricks. This is an activity which has become widespread and is going on on a large scale. Proof of this is the fact that hundreds of "kilns," used to make red bricks, have been set up inside the agricultural belt itself! How can we put a stop to this stripping of agricultural lands? What alternative is there to the red bricks which are necessary in construction? How can we put a stop to the process of erosion of our agricultural soil--erosion which is threatening the existence of projects designed to insure our national food supply?

The stripping of agricultural lands has become a problem which must be dealt with by more than just laws. "Stripping" means removing soil and clay from the earth, especially from the top layer of the earth which is the richest and firmest layer of the soil because fertilizers can easily be put there and because it is exposed to the rays of the sun.

What is happening is that this important layer of soil and clay is being stripped. In fact, the stripping is going beyond the top layer and is reaching down to the second and third layers of the ground's agricultural soil by means of extensive "digging" which is penetrating to a depth of more than 5 meters. This stripping results in a decrease of the land's productive capacity and even leads to the land becoming unsuitable for agriculture.

In order to put a stop to the stripping, the government has issued a decree which prohibits the stripping of agricultural lands except when authorized by the Ministry of Agriculture!

The punishment for failing to comply with this decision is a fine of not less than 200 pounds and not more than 500 pounds for each faddan or less of land where the infraction is committed.

But have the owners of red brick factories stopped stripping agricultural lands?

Let us have the owners of the factories themselves answer this question.

Shu'ayb 'Abd al-Basit, the owner of a red brick factory in Jazirat Warraq al-Hadar, says: "We strip agricultural land in order to use its soil to make red bricks in our factories. These red bricks are necessary for construction. Agricultural land is the cheapest and most available source of material for the production of red bricks. What alternative is there to the soil of agricultural lands [for the making of red bricks]? And what alternative to red bricks do we have [as construction material]?"

The Only Penalty for Stripping Land Is a Fine

Nasif 'Atwan, the owner of a red brick factory in Shatanuf, adds: "The stripping law says that the fine is 200 pounds. But if the violator of this law is the owner of the land, the punishment is imprisonment for not less than a year and a fine which is not less than 200 pounds and not more than 1,000 pounds. This means that I cannot strip the very land which I own. How am I going to then keep my factory running--which is something that I must do since I am bound by production contracts? The price of a faddan of land has gone up to 6,000 pounds, and this is the result of the rise in prices of red bricks. The price of 1,000 bricks has gone up to 60 pounds, and it will continue to go up if we do not find an alternative to the soil of agricultural lands [as material for making red bricks]."

'Izzat Zakariya Abu al-Yamin, the owner of a red brick factory in Sarawah, Minufiyah, says: "When we look at the red brick industry in Egypt, we see that it is a widespread industry and that it employs more than 100,000 workers. Right now, large-scale construction activity depends on these factories which produce red bricks. Furthermore, these factories consume about half of our nation's production of mazut [medium-grade heating oil] which is used in the making of the bricks. What this means is that we need to have the authorities take a stand with regard to this. Either we must find some alternative material to use in our factories, or the government must come out with a decision to close all of the red brick factories until such an alternative material is available. But, in the meantime we do not wish to keep on living under the threat of imprisonment or a fine."

What Alternative Is There to the Bricks?

Sayyid al-Hamili, the owner of a red brick factory in al-'Ayyat, says: "The thing that I do not understand is--do we need or do we not need the red brick industry? If we do need the red brick industry, but make the condition that agricultural lands not be stripped, then what alternative material can we use to continue producing bricks? It is not simply a matter of passing a law. The thing needed to be done is to provide an alternative to red bricks. So far no such alternative has emerged. For this reason, we are forced to strip land even though it might be necessary to pay a fine."

Fathi Ibrahim, the owner of a red brick factory in Ashmun, Minufiyah, adds: "The Ministry of Agriculture has laid down conditions for the stripping of certain lands, and the conditions are that the lands be fallow land or second-class or fourth-class land. If we check to see how much land of these types there is in each province, we find that there is very little. The problem exists because of the fact that the High Dam holds back the silt which used to revitalize our agricultural lands after we stripped them. We used to take the upper layer of the soil down to a depth of 40 centimeters, and this used to be quickly replaced by the silt brought in by the Nile. But the problem now is that the Nile no longer brings in this silt, but we are still continuing to strip agricultural land in order to furnish material for the making of red bricks in our factories."

Abu al-Rawwash al-Sawi, the owner of a brick factory in Warraq al-Hadar, says: "There will continue to be stripping as long as red brick factories are in existence and as long as we do not come up with any alternative to the stripping of land. Although we know that this stripping is harmful to our agricultural lands, we are nevertheless compelled to engage in it until we come up with some abundant alternative material. But there is no justification for making us pay fines because so far there is no available alternative."

There Are Existing Alternatives, But...

One question which all of the owners of red brick factories and merchants who deal in red bricks are asking is--what alternative is there to the stripping of agricultural lands?

When we were visiting the Construction Research Institute, we asked Dr 'Abd al-Qadir al-Fuli this question, namely--what alternative is there to red bricks?

Dr al-Fuli said: "The alternative is bricks made of 'potter's clay.' This clay is found in abundant quantities in all of Egypt's deserts. Potter's clay is composed of desert loam sediments which have been in existence since early geological ages. Both the French firm (Sirk) and the Austrian firm Wagner have conducted experiments with potter's clay, and the results obtained by making bricks out of potter's clay were amazing. The effectiveness of bricks made of potter's clay was also demonstrated in Egypt by the al-Zahra' Co., the Misr Co. which makes potter's clay bricks, the Fali Co., and by the Sigwart Co. which has a factory in the southern area of al-Ma'adi. But production by these companies is still on a limited scale because they are still being established. The (Sigwart) Co. is the only one which has actually begun production."

[Question] Can the red brick factories be used to make potter's clay bricks?

[Answer] It is a question of making a very small change in the factory's machinery. There does exist a project for changing red brick factories so that they can produce potter's clay bricks. This project is being suggested by the Development Bank which is providing the machinery necessary for this industry, with payments to be made according to an installment plan desired by the factory owners. But, as I have said, this has been rejected by the owners of the red brick factories because they would not be able to earn exorbitant profits. The cost of producing

1,000 red bricks does not exceed 12 pounds, and merchants can sell these red bricks for 40 or 50 pounds.

[Question] Has the stripping law been able to put a stop to the operations of stripping agricultural lands?

[Answer] Not the way we expected it to. Stripping is still going on, and is going on openly. The reason for this is that the fine is only 200 pounds, and this is more than made up for after the owner of a red brick factory has stripped enough land to provide him with red brick production for at least a year. The land stripping problem is a type of bloodletting which is afflicting us. This is because our agricultural land is suffering from a loss of blood. The solution to this matter requires more than just the passing of a law.

Potter's Clay Brick Factories

While visiting the offices of the Ministry of Agriculture, we held an interview with Nasri Wahbah, the undersecretary for administrative development affairs. Mr Wahbah said: "The Ministry of Agriculture has already assumed its responsibility by passing a law which prohibits the stripping of agricultural lands and by setting a penalty, consisting of a fine and of imprisonment, for anyone who is convicted of the crime of stripping agricultural land. Furthermore, there is the alternative of using [potter's clay] sand bricks. Sand bricks have already demonstrated their effectiveness. I know what is said concerning the high costs incurred by factories which produce 'potter's clay' sand bricks. But it is possible for red brick factory owners to combine their efforts and to establish a sand brick factory in each province. This would also provide the benefit of dredging the canals and drainage ditches, and there could be stripping of third-class and fourth-class land. Furthermore, every agricultural engineer has been granted judicial police powers."

[Question] But is it not true that the thing that is happening now is that the stripping crisis has become worse and the stripping law has proved to be useless?

[Answer] Well, what is the Ministry of Agriculture supposed to do about it? It is impossible to close down the red brick factories, and at the same time it is not possible to allow stripping as long as there are alternatives to using the soil of agricultural lands. But the organization which is responsible for providing these alternatives is the Ministry of Industry!!

Finally AKHTR SA'AH is presenting a complete picture of the matter to all of those who bear responsibility. As far as the Ministry of Agriculture is concerned, the only thing being done is the levying of a fine. Stripping is still going on. There are alternatives which are being discussed. We need to have the authorities take a stand with regard to this so that we will not be afflicted with further destruction of our agricultural lands at a time when we desperately need every square inch of the land which is providing food for every Egyptian mouth and is providing us with a secure national food supply. What we need to do is to take steps to save our primary sources of national wealth from falling into the hands of those who are greedy and seek quick profits.

COUNTRY'S MINERAL SITUATION DESCRIBED

Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 12 Jan 81 pp 28-31

[Article by Yusuf al-Sharif: "The Mining Industry Dossier"]

[Text] "The Solutions to All of Egypt's Problems Lie in the Ground"—Said by 'Ibadi Basaa, President of the Scientific Academy During the Reign of Khedive Iama'il.

There Are Two Questions Which Need to Be Answered: Is Egypt Saving Its Minerals Until World Market Prices Go Up? Why Does Egypt Still Insist on Importing Cement?

During a trip by jeep around the al-Kharjah Oases—Geological survey reports about our national mineral wealth are not optimistic! This is exactly what is said in the dossier about mining in Egypt.

Exactly what does it say?

Mining is not something new in Egypt. In fact it was the Pharaohs who drew the world's first map showing the location of a mine. The map is in the Turin Museum in Italy. The Pharaohs knew about gold, precious stones, iron, corundum, feldspar, and mica. After the age of the Pharaohs, the Romans came and utilized Egypt's minerals in the manufacture of their weapons and they did not discover any new mines [in Egypt]. Then there was the French invasion which brought scientists to the desert where they drew a few maps. Then Egypt was under the regime of Muhammad 'Ali who had a great need for minerals for both his war industries and his other non-military industries. He brought in Frenchmen such as (De Blfun) and (Figari) to help him. They explored parts of Egypt's deserts, drew geological maps, and rediscovered some of the minerals which had been previously mined and the traces of which had almost disappeared. They extracted coal from the Idfu mines because the Egyptian military campaign, which swept aside the armies of the Ottoman caliph on their way to Istanbul, was in need of this coal. Then Egypt came to have a geological survey department which then discovered some minerals for the first time. They included phosphate in the Red Sea and Nile Valley areas as well as in the al-Bahriya Oases. Later on great progress was made during World War II when the Allies were in need of metals. This made it necessary for the English to enlist the aid of the Egyptians in this field, and the result was the emergence of a group of Egyptian specialists and technicians.

There were more and more discoveries of minerals after the July revolution and after the establishment of the Ministry of Industry and the Department of Geological and Mining Research in 1956. This led to the emergence of large numbers of specialists in this field. The research and the discoveries are still going on, but let us begin our story once more.

During a trip by jeep around the al-Kharjah Oases—The reports are still saying that most of our national mineral wealth is being neglected and is not being exploited!

In the Wadi 'Arabah area there is copper ore at the Abu Ritham and Wadi Bukhayt sites. In olden times these places were mined.

And how about now?!

The answer is that there is no answer to this question!

The story is the same in numerous places. There is copper in Sharq al-'Ajamah, al-Ruglaytah, al-Rahabah, Sandah, and Jabal Dara. There is gold in Umm (Munjul), Umm Bilad, Fatirah, al-Sukkari, Abu Muriyawat, Hamamah, Simnah, etc. And the situation is the same with gold ore in 99 places.

There is only one place where it has been indicated that gold ore reserves have been reappraised, and that is the al-Baramih region! This neglect concerning copper and gold is also true of the lead found in Wadi Asal, Umm Ghays, and Wadi Sitrah. And the situation is identical with regard to zinc ore and precious stones such as sapphire and chrysolite.

The really strange thing is that the reports made by the Geological Survey Organization indicate the existence of huge quantities of minerals in these locations. Concerning the (Smiuki) site, there is a note which says: "This is an old mine concerning which detailed studies have been made. These studies estimated the mine's reserves to be 24,380 tons of zinc, 4,200 tons of lead, 2,660 tons of copper, 180 kilograms of gold, and 29,400 kilograms of silver."

The geological notes say that in another place, called Hmr 'Akarin, there is molybdenum, some castorite, beryl, fluorite, and copper sulphides. The quantity of mineral [reserves] estimated at this location is 8.3 million metric tons which are 6.031 percent molybdenum!

There are plenty of locations throughout Egypt which are full of mineral wealth, in large quantities. They have either been discovered and mined in the past or else the minerals found there have been rationed again. But in spite of this there is no sign of any assurance that these minerals will be mined.

What does this mean?

Does it mean that the mission of geological research in Egypt is limited to exploring for minerals and merely that samples of them will be put in a geological museum?

Or are there financial, administrative, and human resource problems which are an obstacle to our economic and industrial utilization of these minerals? Or is Egypt, like some other large countries, purposely keeping its minerals underground until the mineral resources of the Third World are exhausted and the prices of such minerals consequently go up in the world market--and will only then begin to mine its minerals?

Iron Is No Problem

As we know, mining takes place at three different types of locations--mines, quarries, and saltworks. And mining represents one of the basic foundations for furthering Egypt's industrialization and for supporting Egypt's national economy in the following specific ways:

1. Providing the basic minerals necessary for various domestic industries such as the iron and steel industry, the cement industry, and the fertilizer industry.
2. Providing the country with hard currency by permitting it to limit its imports of these minerals and enabling the country to export its surpluses of such minerals.
3. Providing the basic minerals necessary for building and construction projects as well as agricultural and food supply projects.
4. Contributing toward opening up desert areas and toward increasing the population of areas outside the Nile Valley.
5. Opening up new horizons for our nation's labor force.

There is no doubt that this correct combination of elements has had many opportunities to be put into practice and to demonstrate its success by means of the mining of quarries which contribute considerably to the supplying of domestic markets with the basic construction materials which they need such as cement, limestone, sandstone, marble, serpentine, (brishiya), and Aswan granite.

Although every year we import large quantities of, for example, cement, the fact is that the deserts of Egypt are covered with plenty of the sediment material used in the making of cement. These sediment materials are available in economically profitable quantities in a number of Egypt's provinces, deserts, and mountains.

This is why geological experts and scientists in Egypt are surprised that we insist on importing cement--in spite of the guarantees of investment in the cement industry in our country, in spite of the fact that this industry requires little expertise, and in spite of the fact that Egypt has plenty of the necessary expertise. Egypt also has the necessary combination of elements for mining iron ore.

When the Iron and Steel Co. was formed in 1954, there was no need to import the iron ore which was necessary for this industry. This company's plant used iron ore from Aswan in its first blast furnace, which began operating in 1958, and in

its second blast furnace, which began operating in 1960. In 1960 this plant's annual production of steel was 250,000 tons. Then Egypt's iron and steel industry experienced a great jump in production after the discovery of iron ore in numerous areas of the al-Bahriya Oases, the reserves of which were estimated at about 110 million tons. The third blast furnace, which was using this iron ore, began producing 600,000 tons [of steel] per year. In June 1979 a fourth blast furnace was put into operation. After this was done, it was possible for Egypt to produce 1.5 million tons of steel per year, using only the iron ore found in the al-Bahriya Oases.

The fact that iron ore from these new locations is being used does not mean that the iron ore of the site at Aswan has been exhausted. Primary consideration is being given to the economics of production, to the degree of abundance of the iron ore [in the various locations], and to the iron ore's quality. Right now Aswan's reserves of iron ore are being reestimated and recomputed since preparations are being made to establish an iron and steel industry in the province of Aswan in the future.

Egypt has plenty of iron ore in various locations in the Eastern Desert to the south of al-Qusayr. Iron ore reserves in (Karim), al-(Dabbagh), Jabal al-Hadid, Umm (Ghamis) al-Zarqa', and other locations are estimated at more than 60 million tons. Altogether, these reserves represent the nation's strategic iron ore reserves. What we have said about the necessary combination of elements being available for mining iron ore also is true for many other minerals such as phosphate, manganese, kaolin clay which is necessary for making china and porcelain, white sand which is used in the making of glass, various types of coal, talc which is used in the making of paper, pottery, rubber, and extermination agents, bentonite which is used in foundries, drilling for oil, and drilling for ground water, diatomite clay which is used in refining oil and sugar, feldspar which is used in the making of pottery, china, glass, and materials fired in furnaces. The same thing is true of asbestos, vermiculite, magnesite, chromium, barite, and graphite, which represent the basic materials used in many of Egypt's industries. The same thing also applies to the extraction of sodium chloride salt which is used as table salt and is used in industry. A total of 600,000 tons per year of this material are extracted, and 15,000 of these tons are exported. This is why iron ore and the other minerals, which provide the necessary elements for a prosperous mining industry, were not entered on the map which we used during our trip which was made in search of problems, obstacles, and the negative side of matters [relating to Egypt's mineral resources]. This was true except in the case of phosphate deposits since our trip began in the newest phosphate mining site at Abu Tartur and ended in the oldest phosphate mining locations in Safaja and al-Qusayr.

Red Sea Phosphate

Phosphate is one of the minerals which Egypt has continued to produce since the early part of this century. The sources of phosphate production are at Safaja and al-Qusayr, on the Red Sea, and both the western and eastern banks of the Nile in the al-Siba'iyah area of the Nile Valley. The rock phosphate which is mined in the Nile Valley is used to meet the needs of domestic fertilizer plants, and the amount of phosphate mined for this purpose totals 350,000 tons per year. The Red Sea phosphate, the production of which totals 170,000 tons per year, is exported.

Extractable phosphate reserves are estimated as being about 53 million tons in the Red Sea area and about 114 million tons in the Nile Valley area. Phosphate has been discovered and assessed in the area of al-Hamrawayn, on the Red Sea. There a large enterprise has been set up to mine the phosphate, and this enterprise has reached the point where it is competing [successfully] on the international market. The enterprise began production with the expectation of reaching an annual production capacity of 300,000 tons, and expected this production capacity to eventually total 600,000 tons. Studies have also confirmed that there are phosphate reserves of about 11 million tons in the Abu (Shajilah) area near al-Qusayr. This will promote the mining industry there, given the fact that the old phosphate reserves had been almost completely exhausted. The phosphate reserves of the Nile Valley have also been assessed, and known reserves of phosphate in the al-Siba'iyah area are now believed to be 26 million tons more than was previously believed, and the reserves of al-Mahamid are believed to be 8 million tons more than was previously believed.

The phosphate discovered at Abu Tartur Mountain represents Egypt's largest mineral discovery. The phosphate deposits extend for dozens of kilometers and are widespread underneath the elevation which is located between the al-Kharjah and al-Dakhlah Oases. These phosphate reserves are estimated at about 1 billion tons. This fact has encouraged the government to set its sights on mining the phosphate at a rate of between 7 and 10 million tons per year and processing the phosphate industrially in order to get about 7 million tons per year of concentrated phosphate suitable for export. If this takes place, such a project is guaranteed to have a great effect on the development and opening up of the Western Desert. This will be especially true when the area is linked [to the rest of Egypt] by means of a railroad which will add a new geographical dimension to the populated areas of the Nile Valley and thus the project will add considerably to our national income during the course of many future years.

When we arrived at Abu Tartur Mountain, we were surprised by the fact that there they are constructing the most modern mine in Egypt. For the first time, Egyptians will not be using axes and baskets to break off mineral deposits which are then transported out of the mines by means of pack animals or iron carts.

Everything here is going on in accordance with the latest developments in the mining industry. The mineral deposits are cut and broken off by means of modern machines which are equipped with sharp knives, the mineral deposits are transported to their storage areas over moving rubber conveyor belts, the test mine props are made of steel, and the means of ventilation used down in the mines are just as good as those used in first-class hotels.

Engineer 'Abd al-Hamid (Muhriz), the man in charge of the test mine, told us that the work being done right now, at this stage of the operation, is that of obtaining the technical and economic information which will be taken into account when the large mine is worked and will begin producing 10 million tons of phosphate per year.

He also said that most of the information available concerning the phosphate deposits at Abu Tartur confirm the fact that they have many merits from the point of view of their quality, their purity, and the ease with which impurities can be removed from them. Furthermore, the layer of phosphate deposits in the mountains

runs horizontally, and this makes the process of extracting the phosphate easier. Also, the thickness of the deposits is between 3 and 5 meters, and this makes the job of setting up the mining installations and installing the mining equipment easy and relatively safe. It is expected that test operations will be concluded by the end of October 1981. Then phosphate will be mined and shipped to the (Mnqbad) phosphate plant in Asyut where it will be used in the production of fertilizer which is necessary for our Egyptian soil.

According to Ministerial Decision Number 749 of July 1974, the Executive Body of the Iron and Steel Complex is in charge of the supervision of the implementation of the project. By 31 December 1978, the amount of money invested in the project was about 30,600 pounds. However, up till now the amount which has been spent on the project has totaled 50 million pounds. This money has been spent on buying mining machinery, construction of the test mine, digging [water] wells, and in setting up the installations necessary for the mining project.

The Soviet Khimpromeksport [Chemical Industry Export] Organization has made a technical and economic report concerning the project's economic feasibility. Also, the Geological Survey Organization has made detailed studies concerning the potential of the phosphate deposits at Abu Tartur. However, those who are in charge of the project got in touch with a number of consultant firms and offered to pay 2 million pounds to whichever firm would implement the project. The job was awarded to the French-Swiss firm Swiss (Suframin), which is a consultant firm for mining and for the construction of the type of facilities and installations which will guarantee that the project proceeds smoothly.

Engineer Fikri al-Mursi, project sections manager at Abu Tartur, says: "Completion of the project in final form will require about 800 million pounds. This will be needed in order to put in railroad lines going to the place on the Red Sea where the phosphate will be exported, for setting up high-tension power lines which will be 250 kilometers long and will be between Naj' al-Hammadi and Abu Tartur, for building a wharf and wharf auxiliary facilities for the loading of phosphate in the port of Safaja, where the export capacity will total 6 million tons per year, for digging [water] wells in order to extract 80,000 cubic meters [of water], and all of this in addition to the urban and living facilities and services which will be required by those employed in the project."

If we consult the economic feasibility studies concerning the mine at Abu Tartur, we discover that they indicate that the mine will make an effective contribution toward solving the world food crisis and toward helping Egypt--to the tune of about \$740 million a year--with its balance of payments problem. It is expected that enough phosphate will be produced in order to export between 6 and 7 million tons a year, at an average price of \$40 per ton when based on 1973 prices. The estimated cost of a ton of phosphate at Safaja will be 6 pounds F.O.B., whereas the average price per ton of phosphate is 16 pounds. Thus the surplus involved is 10 pounds per ton. In addition to this, the project will bring about urban and social development in the region and will provide 5,500 new employment opportunities in the area's mines, electrical power industry, and port.

5 Million Pounds of Annual Assistance

The problem which is faced by the phosphate deposits at Abu Tartur is that enormous investments are needed in order to implement the project. This is a problem faced by numerous mining projects in all parts of Egypt. In terms of economic feasibility it is not logical to spend 800 million pounds on railroad and power lines between the al-Kharjah Oases and the port of Safaja merely because of the need to transport the phosphate from its production site to the port where it is exported.

Many economic experts, as well as those who are in charge of implementing the project, feel that a new study should be made of the economics of the project and how the stages of the project are to be implemented. They feel that the new study should be made taking into account the approach of comprehensive planning for the economic and social development of the al-Dakhilah and al-Kharjah Oases. But if this huge sum of money is to be spent only to extract phosphate at Abu Tartur and then exported, then this calls for an objective review of projects for extracting phosphate at Safaja and al-Qusayr.

At the end of the fifties, the Red Sea Phosphate Co. was producing 600,000 tons of phosphate [per year] and this phosphate was exported to other countries. But by the end of the seventies, this figure went down to 160,000 tons.

When this company was first exporting phosphate, it was earning huge profits. But now the company is receiving from the Ministry of Industry an annual subsidy of 2 million pounds, and the total amount of assistance which it receives has gone up to 5 million pounds per year.

A total of 2,000 workers, technicians, and employees are employed by the enterprises of the Red Sea Co., whereas only 90 of these people actually work in the mines. For this reason one can understand why the mining industry is sensitive to, and affected in a positive way by, the rise in economic costs, on the domestic front, and the variables of world market prices, on the international front.

As we know, during the last few years many countries which produce phosphate have been competing with each other in the world market. The most competitive phosphate has been that of Morocco which has glutted the world markets with its phosphate which is both cheap and of good quality.

So, then, the circumstances and factors which, domestically and internationally speaking, dominate the mining of phosphate are but another example of the condition of stagnation which dominates the export industry of Egypt.

In order to establish a mining industry in Egypt, it is not enough that there be mineral deposits all over the country. There are other conditions and factors which must also be present. There have to be economically profitable quantities of these mineral deposits, they have to be of high quality, the mining projects have to be economically feasible, world market prices have to be favorable etc.

Until next week.

9468

CSO: 4802

IRANIANS BURN KHOMEYNI'S EFFIGY IN PARIS

Paris IRAN LIBRE in French 23 Mar 81 pp 1-2

[Report: "The Iranians Celebrate Their New Year, Noruz, on 21 March"]

[Text] This holiday, dating back several thousand years, whose origins go back to Zoroastrian times, is the purest symbol of the national resistance of Iran to all successive invaders throughout the centuries.

For some 15 days the celebration of the new year is the occasion for all sorts of ceremonies in which all Iranians, whatever their religion, participate. The events begin with a celebration which has a strange resemblance to St John's Day, and which takes place on the last Wednesday of the year. It is followed by the 21 March ritual, New Year's Day, the first day of spring and of the solar cycle. The next 13 days are spent in visiting family and friends. According to custom, a picnic is held on the 13th day (2 April) so that the evil spirits which may have settled in the home may dissolve in nature.

The current New Year's Day is the third since the mullahs seized the power. On three separate occasions the Islamic Republic has tried to forbid this "pagan holiday." This year it has found the best pretext for sabotaging the festivities: Iranians in mourning do not celebrate Noruz. Now, with the ongoing war and an economic slump, the Iranians have all too many reasons for not celebrating the new year. Despite all this, however, and despite their trials, the Iranians have refused to abstain. They want to celebrate Noruz in a spirit of defiance and in order clearly to show the Islamic Republic that they have no intention of surrendering any part of their cultural heritage.

This year, therefore, all Iranians have made the celebration of Noruz a point of honor. Our correspondent in Tehran informs us that on 17 March, on the eve of the last Wednesday of the year, the population of the capital set fire to the traditional straw bottles in all city gardens and streets. They then jumped over the fire by chanting a poem from pre-Islamic times, honoring the purifying flames. This ceremony, which lasted late into the night, had been banned by the authorities under the pretext that it violated the blackout in effect and, as such, punishable by the laws of wartime. Several people were detained by the Khomeynists during the confrontations between delinquent citizens and militiamen.

Elsewhere, Iranian exiles equally began their celebration of the new year in all the cities of Europe and the United States where they have found a refuge.

The Iranian community in Paris extended its celebration of the last Wednesday of the year with a particularly significant political demonstration: some 100 people, representing groups opposed to the Khomeyni regime, marched to the embassy of the Islamic Republic on 18 March, Wednesday, at 1700 hours. In front of the embassy they set fire to an effigy representing Khomeyni while chanting slogans hostile to the Islamic Republic. They distributed leaflets explaining the origins and symbolism of the celebration and its connection with their demonstration.

Indeed, it was our country's custom in the past to burn in honor of the new year an effigy of the Caliph Omar, Persia's Arab conquerer.

The Parisians watched the demonstration with a feeling of sympathy which was both obvious and noteworthy.

5157

CSO: 4900

U. S. IS REPORTEDLY DELIVERING CEREALS TO IRAN

Paris IRAN LIBRE in French 23 Mar 81 p 3

[Text] Two weeks ago, the United States shipped 250,000 tons of cereals to Iran. In the view of some Americans this was somewhat premature. But why, therefore, was there such a haste to reestablish "normal" relations with a terrorist government which had caused so much suffering?

The answer is simple. The grain elevators which the old system had filled up are now empty and the last harvest was an agricultural and economic disaster.

Not content with feeding their souls, the false prophet attempted to supply the Iranians with their earthly food. The moment he came to power, Khomeyni ordered the farmers to grow a sufficient amount of grain so that they would be independent "from the East and the West." In the course of subsequent harvests, the Islamic authorities claimed that an agricultural miracle had occurred: some peasants had harvested grain they had planted even on the cob roofs of their houses, in fear that they may miss the paradise Khomeyni had promised.

This "miracle," however, concealed an economic disaster, another one among the many others of the "Khomeyni-Bani-Sadr" style. The farmers in the humid and swampy areas along the Caspian Sea (a particularly fertile area in Iran) had neglected the growing of rice and cotton--exported in the past--and replaced them by wheat, an unfamiliar crop to them. All they harvested was rot and singed soil, and all that the Islamic Republic could do was to seek help from the East or the West in order to feed a particularly discontented population.

It is thus that, in order to balance a Soviet "good deed" that the United States hastened, ignoring all political logic, to reenter a market which the USSR would find it difficult to supply.

1157

CSG: 4900

SETTLERS TAKE OVER NEW SITE NEAR BET HORON

TA172031 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1945 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Text] Bet Horon, 17 Mar--A group of settlers from the Jewish settlement of Bet Horon this evening took over a hill near their settlement and pitched three tents on it. The group came equipped with food and water tanks and is demanding that a permanent settlement be established there. The ITIM correspondent in Judaea and Samaria notes that the group of settlers has established its protest settlement on a hill called "Giv'at Hamutzav" [outpost H hill] on which there was a Jordanian army company outpost until the 6-day war. The settlers brought with them a tractor and have begun building a road from the main highway to the settlement. They have announced that they will not leave the site until they are promised that a permanent settlement will be established.

It should be noted that the temporary Bet Horon settlement, which is on the Latrun-Ramallah Road, is suffering from overcrowding and is located in a border police camp. The settlement's members say they have waited a long time for the implementation of promises that a permanent settlement will be established for them, but so far they have not noticed any action on the part of the settlement institutions in this direction. They add that they have taken over state domain land, and not private land, since there was a Jordanian outpost on the site.

The ITIM correspondent adds that an IDF unit sent by the military government is at the site, but is not conducting negotiations with the settlers. The decision on whether they are to be evacuated or allowed to remain is in the hands of the political sector.

CSO: 4805

LANDOWNERS APPEAL TO HIGH COURT ON SETTLEMENTS

TA171355 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Mar 81 p 10

[Article by Yehuda Litani: "Twenty Inhabitants of the 'Anabta Area Have Appealed to the High Court of Justice Against the Establishment of Shave Shomron B"]

[Text] Twenty inhabitants of the 'Anabta area from the villages of Bayt Lid, (Kafar Labad) and Ramin yesterday appealed to the high court of justice through Attorneys Felicia Langer and 'Abd (al-'Asli) demanding that the military government stop at once works which began on their land last week in the area earmarked for the establishment of Shave Shomron B.

The appellants demanded that "any object brought to the site to work the land in order to prepare it for the establishment of the settlement" should be removed.

The appellants further claimed that they are the owners of the land and have owned it for generations. Although an IDF officer had told the Mukhtars and the heads of the village councils that they had the right to appeal the expropriation within 2 to 3 weeks and that works would not be conducted on the land during that period, 3 days later a bulldozer arrived on the site and began working on the land.

The appellants claimed that the entire area is cultivated. Olive trees have been planted on one tract of land for 40 years and the rest has been planted with wheat and rye and it provides a living to thousands of persons. According to the appellants, "the confiscation of our land is part of a plan to establish as many settlements as possible before the elections to the 10th Knesset, a sort of unrestrained 'grab what you can' attitude. The purpose is to establish faits accomplis of Jewish settlements in the territories, following the orders of agriculture minister Ari'el Sharon and chairman of the Jewish agency settlement department Matityahu Drobles."

The appeal further states that the confiscation of the appellants' property is carried out with the blessing of the defense minister for political motives and as a reflection of his opinions, while understanding and identifying with the expansionist aspirations of Gush Emunim, rather than for security considerations.

The appeal added that the appellants had not been given any expropriation or seizure orders. They claimed that the military government has been working on the site intermittently. The appellants urged the high court of justice to issue an interim order banning the continuation of the works.

The HA'ARETZ correspondent notes that, as usual, calm prevailed in the 'Anabta area yesterday. Many of the shops in 'Anabta remained closed yesterday to protest the expropriation of land for the establishment of the settlement.

YAFO ARAB LEADER CALLS ON ARAB STATES TO DONATE MONEY

TA172017 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Text] The chairman of the board of trustees of the Muslim Waqf in Yafo, ('Abd Kabub), today called on the countries of the Arab and Muslim world to provide economic aid to the Arabs of Yafo so they can improve their housing and living conditions. ('Abd Kabub) said: We call on our brothers in the neighboring countries to whom God has given huge revenues from oil and from natural resources to help us before it is too late and before the Arabs of Yafo become a burden and a severe blight on society and on the entire region, before all that is left of Islam is the name and a few tottering mosques.

Our correspondent, Bassam Ja'bar, notes that (Kabub) recently held contacts with persons in the government, including a meeting with former Finance Minister Yiga'el Hurvitz before the latter's resignation. In reaction to his remarks, the prime minister's adviser on Arab affairs, Binyamin Gur-Arye, stated this evening that dozens of new mosques are built every year in Israel. The Religious Affairs Ministry assists in the construction and renovation of mosques. As for housing assistance, the adviser said there is no discrimination between Jews and Arabs in mixed towns such as Yafo, and the housing ministry offers the same assistance to everyone, with aid of up to 140,000 shekels for an apartment.

CSO: 4805

MILITARY GOVERNOR WARNS NABULUS MAYOR

TA261906 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] The military governor of the West Bank, Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, has warned Nabulus Mayor Bassam al-Shak'ah to stick to municipal activities. In a meeting with reporters this afternoon Ben-Eli'ezer said it was made clear that the Nabulus mayor would not be allowed to cross what Ben-Eli'ezer called a red line, with more details, Alan Ben-'Ami.

[Begin recording] [Ben-'Ami] The military governor disclosed that he had given a clear warning to Bassam al-Shak'ah at a meeting with him just 2 days ago. He said the warning was given because of renewed political activity by the mayor who returned home recently after getting medical treatment in the wake of the bomb explosion that severed his legs.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I hope that Mr Bassam al-Shak'ah will understand that he is a mayor and, as a mayor of the biggest city in Judea and Samaria--Nabulus--he has a lot of responsibilities to his residents, to his town, and as such he has a lot to do. Definitely, he did understand from me what is my position and what is my belief about his extra activities that he has held since he came back. I told him, in my words: My dear friend al-Shak'ah, we are a people who are looking for peace and because of that we have enough patience and we have enough time and, as such, we have a lot of patience but do not try to push us to the corner.

[Ben-'Ami] General Ben-Eli'ezer rejected charges that the authorities were harrasing al-Shakah's family or listening into his phone calls. It was just not true, he said. The military governor also denied reports of massive land expropriation for Jewish settlement. Out of 5.5 million dunam of land of the West Bank, only 200,000 dunam were being used for settlement needs. And, of this--said General Ben-Eli'ezer--only 40,000 dunams belong to private or absentee owners.

Asked why the municipal elections had not taken place as expected last year in the West Bank, the military governor had this to say:

[Ben-Eli'ezer] We knew--and I still know--what could be the results of such an election. It is not secret, we are following their (?aims), we are following their activities and we have enough information to tell you that we came to one conclusion: That if we had let the local population run for election last April, the results could be very, very clear. In other words, once and for all to bury the Camp David process. [end recording]

SINAI FORCE ARRANGEMENTS SEEN AS OBSTACLE TO PEACE

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Mar 81 p 9

[Article by Matityahu Feld: "For Whom Is It Necessary?"]

[Text] According to all indications the multi-national force for policing the Sinai is about to be established before Israel is required to decide about the cancellation of its withdrawal from the second half. In light of this development, it is impossible not to be amazed at the great emotion which overtook the Government of Israel and parts of the public toward the process which the U.S. is undertaking to establish the multi-national force. The establishment was agreed upon in its time, and so will the agreement be carried out. Another question entirely is, for what purpose is it necessary and why is Israel so zealously emotional about it?

The Government of Israel is wont particularly now that the election campaign has started, to hold up the peace treaty with Egypt as its greatest accomplishment for which the public should be grateful. And in fact, there is no limit to the importance of this accomplishment, which will surely stand the Begin Government with the passing of time as evidence of its contribution to the strengthening and the consolidation of Israel in the region. But at this time it is difficult for the government and for many in public to grasp the full import of the peace between us and an Arab nation; so that a worthless medium, devoid of any significance, such as a force made up of a bunch of military units from various lands, is perceived as a central component of the peace treaty.

Reduced Reliability

That a force of this type is not competent to carry out any function effectively--military or civilian--we know well from our decade of experience. Any investigation will reveal that 95 percent of the report in our media on the activity of international forces which function on the strength of arrangements by which we are bound, tell of their diminished reliability, their masked animosity toward us, and of the readiness of their personnel to operate against our interests, and the like. And yet, when the significance of the peace treaty, the first and the only thus far between us and an Arab state is weighed, we are not prepared to live with it if such a force cannot be found, which will protect us against the certain treachery, as it were, of our peace partner. Not the daring of the

President of Egypt who today stands in a severe test with most of the Arab world because of his policy toward Israel. Not the power of the IDF, not an efficient system of supervision operated by us on the strength of the peace treaty, and not the reliability of Israel as a state capable of being concerned with its affairs--not a single one of all of those affords us security and peace, while it is not supported by 4,000 soldiers of various nationalities who will be scattered over the reaches of the Sinai and will protect us from the unknown.

Moshe Dayan, whose simplistic manner of thinking and whose restricted statesman-like perspective have brought him more than once to harsh formulations of foolish perceptions, has determined that the importance of the international police force is no less than that of peace treaties because this force will be required to fulfill the function which until now has been discharged by the IDF in the Sinai, and thus the matter should be brought for additional deliberation and approval by the Knesset. With all the absurdity in this perception, one cannot disregard the fact that it expresses a deep feeling which has been guiding the security thinking of Israel for many years. The essence of this perception is that the security effectiveness of a military force is in direct proportion to its proximity to the area whose security it must uphold. Hence the theory which propounds that without a military presence in the Territories we shall never be able to guarantee that their military exploitation will be denied to any future enemies. On the basis of this perception, our military presence over the length of the Suez Canal was preferable to our deployment as far as possible from it with the assurance of the demilitarization of the intervening area. The results of this security perception are being borne by us body and soul to this very day, because it is that which directly led to the tragedies of the Yom Kippur War. However, for the causes of that horrifying chapter in which our security perception was revealed in all of its nakedness, we sought out technical "omissions" and exonerated completely the minister who was responsible more than any other one for its occurrence. And because we refused to admit to the bankruptcy of our foolish security perception, we continue to advocate it and to operate in accordance with it even after the bitter experience.

Thus, we also excuse our refusal to evacuate the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The argument is that only an Israeli military force will be competent to afford Israel its security in these areas, and we reject the single alternative which carries with it peace and security--that is, withdrawal, with the establishment of appropriate security arrangements. In the Sinai, where we compulsively took upon ourselves the blessings of peace with security, we are now attempting to salvage our security theory by means of that very force which is called an international police force. It is no wonder that Moshe Dayan attributes such fundamental importance to this insignificant arrangement; but more worrisome is the fact that the Government and the public are being drawn after it to a great degree, just as in the past they were drawn after the other manifestations of his security perceptions which left in their wake so very many monuments to ruin, destruction and shame.

The Last Resort

Establishment of the international police force which clearly comes only because of the intransigence of Israel, will contribute to the setting up of an additional monument of the same type. With respect to Israel, this police force constitutes

a last resort, or more correctly, a straw by which its bankrupt security theory is being sustained. However, in the relations of Israel with its neighbors and with the international community, this force will be an irritating thorn which is yet likely to be poisonous. Clearly, its findings when a doubt arises in one of the parties toward the peace treaty, will be a bone of contention. In place of direct contact between Israel and Egypt, for which there is no substitute, a foreign officer will serve as an arbitrator and an umpire, and the party that is dissatisfied with his decisions will accuse him of favoritism. His troops, who undoubtedly will quickly learn the secrets of the escape networks which operate in the reaches of the Sinai, will be busier in making profits from these comfortable sources during the period of their short service, than in supervising the peace agreement. But what is more serious is, that this police force will constitute a road block for the good faith that could have developed with the passing of time between Israel and Egypt had it not been set up.

An argument which is prevalent among the supporters of the international force is, that the presence of American troops in it--and this is, without a doubt, the ideal of Israel--is that it will afford additional security to Israel. If in fact this is Israel's ideal, to witness the expansion of the American military presence in the region, is not the presence of American bases in Egypt, which are now being established, a guarantee that the Egyptian military will not be able to wage war upon us ipso facto? And perhaps one must suspect that the position on the establishment of the international police force is destined to constitute a first step for the penetration of an American military presence into Israel itself?

It is difficult to avoid these worrisome thoughts in the face of the zeal which we are demonstrating for the establishment of a totally superfluous force which is apt to become a stumbling block in the peace process. But if in fact we are facing new developments in our security perception, it is appropriate that this time more profound considerations precede it, to assure, as much as possible, that these new perceptions will not have hidden within them Yom Kippur days far more difficult than any we have known up to now.

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CSO: 4805

NEW ELECTRONIC MILITARY EQUIPMENT PLANNED

Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 24 Feb 81 p 3

[Article by Military Correspondent of DAVAR: "Significant Penetration by Optical and Electronic Means During Next Decade"]

[Text] During the next 10 years we will witness a significant penetration of laser systems, optics and electronics, as part of the armament and equipment in the tank and in other weapons. We shall also create additional generations of the Merkava tank and will develop additional improvements to the existing weapons systems and the backup for the tanks now serving in the IDF arsenal--it was stated yesterday by Brig Gen Bentzion Ben Beshet, chief ordnance officer, at a meeting with the military correspondents on the occasion of the Day of the Ordnance Corps, which begins tomorrow.

During the military correspondents' meeting a number of weapons were revealed which had been developed by the Ordnance Corps and tested at its installations. Among others, the Corps revealed the Galilee assault rifle with night sight, that functions on the principle of amplification of starlight. The modification makes it possible to coordinate the sight with the rifle barrel. For the first time yesterday, there were made public also assault methods for clearing minefields, a mobile laboratory for maintenance of fixed-position missiles, and mission cars to care for weapons and repair systems on the battlefield.

The chief ordnance said in an interview with the newspeople that the Ordnance Corps possess developmental capability at the highest worldwide level, according to him.

Although in the area of technology we at times are led by a generation or two, nevertheless in anything connected with our quality of development we have no competitors even in the largest military establishments and in the developed countries, said Brig Gen Ben-Beshet. For that reason, many military establishments seek cooperation with the IDF in anything relating to the development and the application of various means of warfare. He attributed the superior quality to superior manpower serving in the IDF which devotes its energy and time and thought to improvements and developments under monetary restraints and under restraints of time and space.

The chief ordnance officer said that the Merkava tank is the apex of the efforts and the experimentation accumulated over about 25 years, by the many adaptations made to the Sherman, the Centurion, the Shalal tanks and others. The Merkava is the tank of the next decade.

TANK RESCUE SYSTEM DEVELOPED

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 2 Mar 81 pp 20-21

[Article by Meir Cohen: "Israeli Rescue System to be Installed in Tanks Acquired By Saudi Arabia"]

[Text] All tanks and armored personnel carriers in the IDF will be equipped with a fire extinguisher and explosion damper system, which has been developed in this country by a company named Spectronics Tel Aviv.

Details of the system and its operation were published in the bulletin of the American Grumman Company, a manufacturer of aircraft—among them the P-14 and Hawkeye early warning planes which are also in the hands of Israel—signed an agreement for joint production and acquisition of know-how with the Israeli Spectronics company. According to the bulletin, this company won the tender of the Defense Ministry for the development of this system.

Micro-Second

The system, which is named S.A.F.E. (an acronym for Spectronics Automatic Fire Extinguisher) is contained within the tank hull and also includes the following components: fire and shock-wave detectors, which are produced at the time of an explosion, and small containers filled with a special gas named Halon 1301.

With the outburst of an explosion—for example, at the time a missile or shell strikes the tank—the detector sounds an alarm within a micro-second. The detector or the sensor is responsive to radiation which escapes at the time of an explosion, and not to heat or to pressure. For that reason its functioning is lightning-fast. The special gas escapes from the containers to the shock wave and the conflagration of the explosion, automatically. This gas is stronger in its functioning than the gases which combine in the chemical action of the conflagration. It thus combines in this process and extinguishes the conflagration instantly. The gas itself evaporates at once.

Fewer Burns

In the system four small containers of Halon 1301 gas and three sensors are included. One container can be installed in the tank engine, and the others within its battle compartment.

The system will thus make it possible for tanks, which have sustained a hit, to continue to function; it also obviates the need for the crew to bolt out after the hit in order to escape the fire taking hold of the tank. This will be extinguished instantaneously. The very existence of such a system in a tank increases the motivation and the battle will of its crew. It also reduces the likelihood of injury from burns and increases the survivability of the tank.

The Grumman Company will produce the system for the modern XM-1 model battle tanks of the United States Army. According to the American publication, many foreign military establishments are interested in the system. The publication National Defense Review writes that West Germany will acquire the system for its Leopard-2 model battle tanks and the Mardar armored personnel carriers. These are the tanks and the armored personnel carriers also requested by Saudi-Arabia.

There is therefore the possibility that an Israeli rescue system will be installed in tanks to be acquired by the Saudis...

There is no doubt that this is a unique event, that an Israeli company will transmit modern technology of arms systems to an American company as large as Grumman. This technology is also adaptable for civilian projects, and for that reason its future lies open before it.

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CSO: 4805

BRIEFS

FALASTIN BANK OPENS IN GAZA--The first branch of Gaza's local bank, the Falastin Bank, opened in Gaza today. This aroused much excitement among the Gazans and received extensive coverage in foreign media. The Gazan Bank was opened only after long years of negotiations with Cairo, which froze its assets following the 6-day war, and after the military authorities issued the necessary permit. The military authorities had initially refused to let the bank open under the name Falastin but reversed its position after the bank's representatives appealed to the high court of justice. [Text] [TA011239 Jerusalem Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 1 Apr 81]

ARAB-JEWISH HEBRON CONFLICT--The acting mayor of Hebron has accused the settlers in the Hadassah building of imposing terror on their Arab neighbors with the intention of forcing the neighbors to leave and then taking over their houses. Our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari reports that it has now emerged that one of the families that was living near the Hadassah building was forced to leave its apartment after all the windows in the apartment were broken. The father of the head of the family had saved Jews in the 1929 riot. The acting mayor of Hebron told our correspondent that the military government has told the municipal engineer to come up with documents attesting to his ownership of a building located next to the Abraham the patriarch synagogue. The engineer had rented out an apartment but the tenants left and it is now empty. The engineer cannot rent it out to new tenants until he proves his ownership. The municipal engineer's father is Shaykh 'Abdal-Hay ('Arafa), who was once expelled from Hebron for incitement, but was allowed to return in a gesture by Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman to Shaykh Ja'bari. [Excerpts] [TA291748 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 29 Mar 81]

FALASTIN BANK IN WEST BANK--The Falastin Bank in Gaza intends to open branches in Judea and Samaria. The chairman of the bank's board of directors, Hasham al-Shawwa, told this to our correspondent, Bassam Ja'bar. This week, the examiner of banks authorized the reopening of the bank, for the first time since the 6-day war. The bank will initially operate only in Gaza. [Text] [TA161644 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 16 Mar 81]

COST-OF-LIVING INDEX--The February consumer's price index rose by a relatively moderate increase of 5.5 percent, which reflects price increases in all the consumer goods. In the first 2 months of the year the index rose by 13.2 percent. The goods whose prices rose higher than the others were the prices of consumer's foodstuffs that went up by 6 percent and the price of fruit and vegetables that went up by almost 15 percent. The price of apartment maintenance went up by 7.7 percent.

The smallest hike was in the prices of clothing and footwear which rose by less than 0.5 percent. Wholesale prices in industry output have also risen by 8.2 percent, which may affect the consumer's price index next month. [TA160836 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 15 Mar 81 TA]

INTERIM ORDER ISSUED IN LAND CASE--The High Court of Justice today issued an interim injunction barring any further demolition or removal work on the Shave Shomron lands, in the area of the village of 'Anabta. The court issued the order at the request of 20 residents of villages in the area, who claim that they own the land in question and that no expropriation order was given to them--but that a bulldozer nonetheless arrived and began working. [Text] [TA171956 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 Mar 81]

300 VILLAGERS PROTEST SETTLEMENT--About 300 people from the villages of (Labid), Bayt Lid, Ramin and 'Anabta in the Tulkarm district held a protest march at noon to the site of the new settlement, Shave Shomron, where tractors and bulldozers were breaking ground. The local security forces prevented the villagers from approaching the site and ordered them to disperse. Up to the time of this report there had been no incidents. Before that, the villagers had held a protest rally on the hills surrounding the settlement site. They demanded that the work be stopped immediately and that they be permitted to appeal legally against the seizure of the land. The villagers and their supporters, headed by Bassam al-Shak'ah, the mayor of Nabulus, claim that the settlement area belongs to them and has been cultivated by them. According to them, they were only given 1 week's notice in advance of the seizure, while they had thought they had 21 days in which to appeal. They also say that the area covers about 5,000 dunams. The military government has reported that an uncultivated area of 1,500 dunams is involved. [Text] [TA151523 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 15 Mar 81]

OPPOSITION TO SINAI WITHDRAWAL -- "Stop the withdrawal from Sinai"--an action headquarters, operating with this slogan, was established with the cooperation of all of the regional councils beyond the Green Line. In the headquarters the regional councils of the Jordan Valley and the Golan Heights are participating in addition to the regional councils of Samaria, Binyamin, Gush Etzion, the Gaza Strip and of course the council of the Eytam District of southern Sinai, Yamit and the settlements of the Rafiah Pass. The action headquarters has recently published a brochure with many illustrations in which it is explained why it is necessary to cease the withdrawal from Sinai--with the inclusion of citations from the Israeli press. [Text] [Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 19 Feb 81 p 11] 8090

HEBRON MAYOR ON HARASSMENT--The Mayor of Hebron charges that Jewish settlers in the Hadassah building in his city are taking hostile actions against their neighbors. The purpose, he says, is to get them to leave. He charged that the settlers turn dogs loose on the Arab residents at night and throw stones at their houses, breaking windows. He also claimed that Jews are trying to force shopowners in Hebron to sell them their stores. But the military government says it knows nothing about the incidents mentioned by the mayor and adds that no one has filed a complaint. Rabbi Moshe Levinger, a leader of the Jews in the Hebron area, heartily denied the charges by the Hebron official. Rabbi Levinger declared that the settlers are on good terms with their neighbors. Rabbi Levinger said the mayor probably reacted to pressures from outside in making his statements and warned that if he continues to follow the path of his predecessor, the deported Fahd al-Qawasimi, he will suffer just the same. [Text] [TA290622 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 29 Mar 81]

SOVIET DOCUMENT ANALYZES SITUATION IN LEBANON, PROPOSES SOLUTION

Beirut AL-NIDA' in Arabic 15 Mar 81 p 7

[Article: "Important Soviet Document about the Situation in Lebanon Finds the Crisis To Be the Result of the Israeli Aggression on the Arabs and the Absence of a Solution to the Middle East Crisis; Getting the Question Out of Its Inertia Is To Be Achieved by Brezhnev's Proposal on the Middle East; Moscow Foiled Military Intervention and Internationalization Plans and Supports the Unity of Lebanon, the National Forces and the Resistance"]

[Text] In a special supplement issued yesterday the NOVOSTI News Agency circulated an important document about the Soviet Union's position on the Lebanese crisis and on the ways for solving it. The document, which is entitled "The Soviet Union: for a Free and Sovereign Lebanon," includes a review of the Soviet position on the crisis and its stages and on the development of events in Lebanon from 1975 until today. The document affirms that the Lebanese crisis is the result of the Israeli aggression against the Arab countries and of the fact that the Middle East crisis has remained without a solution. In addition, another important reason [for the crisis] manifests itself in the increasing disintegration of the classes. The document refers to the objectives of the conspiracy in liquidating the Palestinian Resistance, striking the Lebanese National Forces, turning the Arabs away from confronting the Israeli aggression and driving them to fight each other. The document condemns the role of the United States, the imperialist countries, Israel and internal Lebanese reactionaries in this conspiracy. It affirms that the resolute Soviet posture foiled the United States' attempts for armed military U.S. intervention in the crisis and the internationalization plans as well. The document reaffirms that the Soviet position is based on calling for a peaceful settlement, a condition of which is to guarantee the sovereignty and unity of Lebanon and to protect the interests of the Lebanese national forces and the Palestinian Resistance Movement. The document affirms that finding the way out of the existing situation would come about by working to solve the Middle East crisis on the basis of the proposal Brezhnev made at the 26th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party.

The text of the document follows.

Throughout the history of Lebanon since [its] independence, the Soviet Union has always supported its sovereignty and its territorial integrity. This is indicated in the events of recent years which followed the outbreak of the Lebanese crisis.

Early in November 1975 before the Lebanese crisis had reached its climax, the Soviet Union's ambassador in Lebanon, Soldatov, visited Prime Minister Rashid Karami. Soldatov informed Karami of the Soviet leaders' position on Lebanon and on the questions of Lebanon's sovereignty, territorial integrity and the unity of its people. On 12 November 1975 Karami referred to this discussion when he announced that "The Soviet leaders have shown considerable understanding of the current events. They support the Lebanese government in its serious effort to achieve stability in the interests of all the people of Lebanon." Afterwards, the Soviet Union continued to follow the development of events in Lebanon with considerable interest, and it was always supportive of a settlement to the Lebanese crisis achieved through peaceful, democratic means by the Lebanese people themselves, without any outside intervention on the basis of preserving the unity of Lebanon's land and preserving its sovereignty and its independence.

Foiling the Plans of Reactionaries and Protecting Progressive Forces

In the statement he delivered at the full meeting of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist party in October 1976 Brezhnev affirmed that the Soviet Union had been calling from the outset for stopping the fighting between the brothers in Lebanon; protecting the progressive forces of this country and the Palestinian nationalists from defeat; preserving the unity of Lebanon as a state; and foiling the plans of reactionaries seeking to partition this country. In adopting this policy the Soviet Union is asserting that normalizing the situation in Lebanon is considered an important condition for preserving and securing the positions of the Palestinian Resistance Movement and for preserving the cohesion of the front of Arab forces struggling to remove the effects of the Israeli aggression and to establish a just and stable peace in the Middle East.

The Position of the Warsaw Countries

The fraternal socialist countries stood firmly beside the Soviet Union in calling for an urgent normalization of the situation in Lebanon and for a peaceful solution achieved by the Lebanese people themselves to all the problems that are facing their homeland. [The Lebanese people are to achieve this] without any outside interference and with due consideration to the interests and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Resistance Movement which is represented by the Palestine Liberation Organization. The common position of the socialist countries on this problem was quite clearly formulated in the meeting of the Political Advisory Committee for the member countries of the Warsaw Pact. That meeting was held in Bucharest in November 1976.

The situation in these geographical areas, where crises can be found and where bloodshed goes on, as it does in Lebanon, for example, received serious attention during the meetings between Leonid Brezhnev and the leaders of the fraternal parties in the socialist countries. These meetings took place in the Crimea in August 1976. Reference was made to the fact that life was affirming with new force the importance of escalating the unrestricted struggle to remove the seat of the military dispute, to secure detente and to liquidate all the vestiges of the "cold war" for the purpose of scaling down the arms race.

A Result and Not a Cause

In a number of official documents that were published during the civil war in Lebanon the Soviet Communist Party and the Soviet government--relying on the evaluation of the communist parties in the Arab countries and setting out from the premise of the overall development of international relations in the Middle East and from the nature and characteristics of the current stage of the Arab National Liberation Movement--undertook a comprehensive analysis of the events in Lebanon and revealed their true class meaning.

The Soviet Communist Party and the Soviet government indicated in these important documents that the Lebanese events were primarily the result of the struggle in the Middle East which has not yet been settled. It is quite clear that it is only the settlement that comprises a just solution to the Palestinian problem that can improve the situation in Lebanon and in the Middle East as a whole. Thus, the Lebanese crisis is not the reason for the existing tension in the Middle East; it is rather the result of this tension. Had it not been for the Israeli aggression against the Arab countries and the problems that resulted therefrom, the Lebanese events would not have taken place. Hence, we can come to the following conclusion: the sooner the results of this aggression are removed, the sooner the situation in Lebanon and in the Middle East as a whole will be normalized.

The Objectives of the Conspiracy: Liquidating the Resistance and Striking the National Forces

The Soviet Union thinks that the real significance of the Lebanese events lies in turning the Arabs' attention away from the struggle against the Israeli aggression, in liquidating the Palestinian Resistance Movement, in dealing a blow to the Lebanese national forces and in drawing the Arabs into a war wherein brothers would fight each other.

Leonid Brezhnev's statement, which he delivered at the full meeting of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party in October 1976, was characterized by the fundamental importance of understanding the nature of the Lebanese crisis, the reasons for its emergence, the forces that are moving as well as their objectives. Taking into consideration the actual alignment of the class forces either in the Middle East as a whole

or in Lebanon itself, Brezhnev's statement revealed the real substance of the intentions of imperialism and its agents in Lebanon and in the Middle East. Accordingly, the statement offered considerable assistance to the progressive forces in this region and to all the peace-loving social forces. In uncovering the origins of the Lebanese events the full meeting [of the Central Committee] deemed the civil war to be the result of a new attempt by international imperialism--that is, the United States and other NATO countries--to deal a blow to the anti-imperialist revolutionary forces in the Middle East and to protect and stabilize their positions there. In affirming the characteristics of the current tactical course of imperialism vis a vis the Arab Liberation Movement, the full meeting [of the Central Committee] referred to the fact that imperialism was presently pursuing a course of instigating disputes between an Arab and his Arab brother. At the same time the full meeting referred to the other important reason that led to the Lebanese crisis: the growing disintegration of the classes within the Arab countries and the growing socio-political differences between them.

The Role of Imperialism and the Role of its Internal Tools

The significance of the aforementioned full meeting lies also in the fact that it revealed the actual courses and objectives of not only the imperialist countries, headed by the United States of America, but it also revealed the actual courses and objectives of its clients and functionaries who are Lebanese reactionaries inside the country. Their activities against the Lebanese nationalist-pan-Arab forces or against groups of the Palestinian Resistance Movement, that is, against one of the anti-imperialist groups in the Arab world were dedicated. The Soviet Union has taken urgent measures vis a vis the escalation of the situation in Lebanon for the purpose of preventing the scope of the Lebanese struggle from being broadened, to ward off the danger of foreign intervention in the internal affairs of this country and to contribute to strengthening the cohesion of the Lebanese progressive forces.

Against Foreign Intervention

At the end of May and early in June 1976 Aleksey Kosygin made an official visit to both Iraq and Syria. During that visit considerable attention was given to the Lebanese crisis and the ways of solving it.

On the first of June 1976 Kosygin presented the Soviet Union's position on the Lebanese events. He said, "As long as the Lebanese people remain the only ones who have the right to solve their own questions themselves, Lebanon must be protected from any imperialist intervention in its internal affairs." Kosygin affirmed that everybody had to respect that right.

The Soviet position was reaffirmed in a statement delivered by Kosygin on 2 June 1976. In that statement Kosygin reaffirmed that any form of imperialist intervention in the affairs of Lebanon was unwarranted. Kosygin said, "We support those Lebanese forces that are struggling to

achieve national unity, to protect the unity of the Lebanese Republic, to stop the bloodshed and to settle the current crisis by peaceful means in a manner that is consistent with the fundamental interests of the Lebanese people."

Under this tense situation, implying considerable responsibility, when the Lebanese events were threatening to turn into an increasingly broad international dispute, the Soviet Union called upon all the countries to refrain from any activity that would contradict the principles of respecting independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity so that these internationally recognized principles can be fully applied to Lebanon. A TASS statement which was issued on 10 June 1976 indicated that "Above all else, this requires that the bloodshed be stopped in Lebanon. It is necessary that all the parties participating in the Lebanese events hold a cease fire without delay."

Threats of Armed Intervention by Imperialism

When a number of countries, under the guise of showing an interest in the existing situation in Lebanon, began issuing threats of armed intervention in the affairs of Lebanon, the Soviet Union announced that the Middle East region was closer to the Soviet Union than any other country issuing such threats. The Soviet Union announced that its interest in the development of events in Lebanon and in its surroundings now and in the future was not less [than that of other countries]. The TASS statement expressed concern for the destiny of the Palestinians living in Lebanon, especially since they had been drawn into this bloody war of brothers fighting against each other. The statement indicated that the Soviet Union hopes that the parties who were participating directly in the Lebanese events, as well as all the other countries that realize the danger of the continued escalation of the situation in the Middle East, will act responsibly.

Foiling the Internationalization Plans

As a result of the Soviet Union's firm opposition, it was possible to ward off the armed military intervention in the internal affairs of Lebanon by the United States of America and the NATO countries. It was also possible to foil their plans which had sought to internationalize the Lebanese crisis.

Early in July 1976 the Soviet Committee for Solidarity with the Countries of Asia and Africa called upon all the parties to the dispute in Lebanon to establish a cease fire and to stop the bloodshed immediately. This appeal demonstrated the emotions and feelings of millions of Soviet citizens and all the peace-loving democratic social circles. Reference was made here to the fact that the Lebanese crisis can and in fact should be settled without any outside intervention by the Lebanese people themselves, by having all the concerned parties participate on the basis of guaranteeing the independence, the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of Lebanon.

In the statement issued on 27 August 1976 the Soviet Committee for Solidarity with the countries of Asia and Africa called upon the nationalist democratic international organization to undertake broad action supporting the Palestinian Arab people and the Lebanese nationalists in their struggle to foil the imperialist conspiracy in Lebanon; to bring about an immediate cessation of the bloodshed; and to bring about a political settlement of the Lebanese crisis that is in the interests of the people of this country and all the nations of the Middle East.

Rightist Forces Escalated the Situation

The response of the rightist forces in Lebanon, which are supported by outside imperialist circles and which depend directly on Israel, came late in September. The response of these rightist forces to the constructive steps undertaken by the Palestine Liberation Organization and by the nationalist forces was a new military attack.

The escalation of the situation in Lebanon was resumed, and that attracted the attention of Soviet public opinion. The statement of the Soviet Committee for Solidarity with the countries of Asia and Africa, which was published on 1 October 1976, included a comprehensive analysis of the development of Lebanese events and provided an objective evaluation of President Sarkis's peaceful initiative and of the position of the Lebanese national forces and of Yasir 'Arafat as well. The statement also revealed the instigative activity that was being practiced by the rightist Lebanese forces. At the same time the statement expressed concern regarding the serious threat to the Palestinian Resistance Movement, to the Lebanese national forces and to the entire Lebanese people.

During the period in which the civil war in Lebanon was being escalated, numerous meetings and encounters took place in the Soviet Union. At those meetings Soviet citizens expressed their solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people and the Lebanese nationalists against the imperialist conspiracy in Lebanon. They denounced the actions of reactionaries against the Palestinian Resistance Movement and against the Lebanese national forces, and they called for an urgent halt to the fighting among brothers and for the establishment of peace in Lebanon that is in the interests of the people of this country as well as all the nations of the Middle East.

The fundamental and constant position of the Soviet Communist Party and of the Soviet government was carefully evaluated during the Lebanese crisis by the Lebanese national forces and by the Palestinian Resistance Movement whose leaders had repeatedly praised the considerable importance of the support offered to them by the Soviet Union.

Peaceful Settlement and Preserving the Interests of Nationalists

At the end of the fall of 1976, after the al-Riyadh Conference, the features of the normalization of the situation began to appear in Lebanon.

This was welcomed by the Soviet Communist party and by the Soviet government who did not limit themselves to following the developments of the Lebanese crisis attentively, but they also took energetic measures to eliminate the crisis quickly. The Soviet Union, nevertheless cautioned that the settlement in Lebanon will not be truly effective unless Lebanon's sovereignty and unity are guaranteed, unless its territory is not partitioned and the interests of the nationalist forces as well as those of the Palestinian Resistance Movement are taken into consideration. As far as the Soviet Union is concerned, the meeting of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party (1 October 1976) indicated that "The Soviet Union will continue making every possible effort to bring about the success of a peaceful settlement in Lebanon."

Junblat Assassinated To Prepare Conditions for Intervention

However, the enemies of normalizing the situation did not stop their attempts to impede this process. This is especially confirmed by the assassination of Kamal Junblat, one of the leaders of the Lebanese pan-Arab national forces, the president of the Socialist Progressive party in Lebanon. Junblat holds the international Lenin prize "for supporting peace among nations." As was indicated by the Lebanese press, the perpetrators of this crime intended to increase the tension of the situation in Lebanon; they prolonged the crisis and created the conditions that were conducive to imperialist intervention.

On behalf of the Soviet Communist Party and the Soviet people Leonid Brezhnev denounced the assassination of Kamal Junblat in his address to the 16th Conference of Soviet Trade Unions. He stated that the assassination was one of the examples indicating that the reactionary forces did not wish to accept under any circumstances whatsoever the independent policy and the progressive development of the Asian and African countries that have been liberated from colonialist subjugation."

The Israeli Aggression

The normalization of the situation in Lebanon was also impeded by the organized shelling operations of the Israeli forces to which the cities, the inhabited regions and the camps of the Palestinian refugees in south Lebanon were subjected.

The Israeli aggression on Lebanon in March 1978 was extremely dangerous and challenging.

Israel's aggression reaffirmed the full truth of the Soviet Union's repeated warnings that the continued lack of a settlement for the Middle East struggle, Israel's continued occupation of Arab lands and the violation of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian Arab people will create a situation that will lead to a military clash and that will be fraught with disastrous consequences.

Supporting the Nationalist Forces

The Soviet Communist Party and the Soviet government, who have always worked and will always work against aggressive acts against Lebanon as well as all the other Arab countries, support the efforts of the lawful authorities in Lebanon which seek to ensure the sovereignty, the independence and the territorial integrity of Lebanon. The Soviet Communist Party and the Soviet government have again reviewed their fulfillment and their devotion to their position during this period. During the meeting that was held in the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party on 30 March 1978—a meeting which was attended by Kirilinko, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee and secretary to this committee; by Kapitonov, secretary of the Central Committee; by Korniyenko, deputy minister of Foreign Affairs; and Brutents, deputy chief of the international department of the Central Committee—with a delegation of the Lebanese Communist Party, the Soviet side announced the Soviet Union's full support for the national and pan-Arab forces and for the progressive forces in the Arab homeland which are opposing the plans for imperialism and its proteges. The Soviet side also expressed its support for the anti-imperialist nationalist forces in Lebanon which oppose the Israeli occupation of south Lebanon. The Soviets declared their support for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the forces of the aggressor in order to preserve and strengthen the national independence of Lebanon as well as its sovereignty and territorial integrity. The delegation of the Soviet Communist Party referred to its solidarity with the Palestinian Resistance Movement and affirmed the Soviet Union's position on the questions of settling the crisis of the Middle East.

In a statement by TASS [entitled], "Let Us Oppose Israel's Aggression," which was published on 17 March 1978, the Soviet Union resolutely denounced the armed Israeli intervention in Lebanon. It revealed the basic objectives of the Israeli aggressor, and it appealed to all the peace-loving forces to unite their efforts to stop Israel's aggression and to make it withdraw its forces from Lebanon immediately. The TASS statement mentioned the fact that the responsibility for the serious consequences of the sharp new deterioration in the situation in the Middle East falls squarely on the shoulders of the Israeli government.

Soviet Organizations

The Israeli aggression was also denounced by the Supreme Soviet organization which described it as an act of international piracy and called for its immediate halt. The organization also called for the immediate withdrawal of the Israeli forces of occupation from all Lebanese lands. The Supreme Soviet organization called upon the parliaments of all the countries to take all the measures that are necessary to restrain the aggressor who is rudely violating the traditions of international law and the principles of the UN Charter.

The Alliance of Soviet Societies of Friendship and Cultural Relations

with Foreign Countries issued a statement on the occasion of the events in Lebanon denouncing Israel's actions in the name of Soviet social circles and asking that all Israeli troops that had entered Lebanese territory be withdrawn.

The posture of Soviet social circles was reflected in statements by the Central Council of Soviet Trade Unions, the Soviet Committee for Afro-Asian Solidarity, the Soviet Committee for Defending Peace, the Soviet Committee for Old Fighters and other Soviet social organizations that reaffirmed their solidarity with the struggle of the Arab nations against the Israeli aggression, against Zionism and against reactionaries and [with the efforts of these nations] to establish a just and stable peace in the Middle East and to respond to the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

Israel's Aggressions Are Pre-Planned

During the discussion of Lebanon's complaint in the Security Council the Soviet delegation called the council's attention in particular to the council's need to deal with the events in Lebanon with the utmost gravity because the discussion was not about a regional dispute, but rather about a pre-planned aggression on the Arab National Liberation movement and on the possibility of achieving a just settlement to the dispute in the Middle East.

The position that was assumed by the Soviet Union in the course of the debate of the Lebanese problem in the Security Council showed that the Soviet Union's position was not confined to enthusiastic support for the Arab countries that are the victims of Israeli aggression. The Soviet Union takes the position of these countries into consideration even when it does not share that position with them, as was the case regarding the subject of the UN forces in Lebanon.

Relying on the support of the United States, Israel has recently carried out new aggressive attacks on Lebanon.

In this regard the Soviet Union, defending the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon, has denounced repeatedly the Israeli aggressive operations. The Soviet Union's posture was fully understood by the progressive Arab countries. According to the Joint Soviet-Syrian communique that was issued in September 1978, the Soviet Union and Syria, having reviewed the situation in Lebanon, denounced Israel's continuous intervention in Lebanon's internal affairs. Syria and the Soviet Union expressed their intention to help normalize the situation in Lebanon on the basis of ensuring its sovereignty, its independence and its territorial integrity. The two sides advocated strengthening the lawful authority of the Lebanese government over all of Lebanon's territory and taking the legitimate interests of the Palestinian Resistance Movement in Lebanon into consideration.

To analyze the crisis of Lebanon and the events that followed it, special reference must be made to the attempts made by imperialism and Arab reactionaries to eliminate the Lebanese national forces and the Palestinian Resistance Movement. These attempts have failed just as the attempts to disrupt Soviet-Syrian relations have failed.

Comprehensive Settlement Based on Brezhnev's Proposal

But the effects of the Lebanese crisis, which is one of the results of not settling the dispute in the Middle East, still exist. In its efforts to control the Middle East the United States of America has been pursuing a course of dividing the Arab world, planning the separate agreement between Israel and Egypt and [then] dragging new partners into this capitulatory agreement that is basically anti-Arab. What would be the way out of this situation that has emerged? Leonid Brezhnev, the secretary general of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist party and the chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet said during the 26th Congress of the Soviet Communist party, "The time has come to get the question out of its inertia. The time has come to go back to the righteous collective search for a comprehensive settlement on a just, realistic basis. This can be achieved under the emerging circumstances, for example, in the context of an international conference held especially for that purpose.

"The Soviet Union is prepared to contribute to this effort with a constructive spirit in a praiseworthy effort. We are prepared to do this in conjunction with the other concerned parties. We are prepared to undertake such a search with the United States of America. Let me remind [the audience] that we had a particular experience in that regard a few years ago. We are prepared to cooperate with the European countries and with all those who indicate a sincere wish to ensure a stable and a just peace in the Middle East.

"Regarding the substance of the question, we are convinced as we have been before that real peace in the Middle East requires the removal of the Israeli occupation from all the Arab lands that were usurped since 1967. The established rights of the Palestinian Arab people must be recognized, including the establishment of their state, and the safety and sovereignty of every one of the states of this region must be ensured as well."

8592

CSO: 4802

PAPER VOICES SUPPORT FOR NICARAGUA

LD011453 London AL-ZAHF AL-AKH DAR in English 27 Mar 81 p 2

[Editorial: "Fighting Imperialism"]

[Excerpts] We have always written in these pages that the Libyan people are uncompromisingly against imperialism and will engage the enemy anywhere. This has meant, in practice, supporting progressive forces all over the world to engage the enemy and be successful. There is no doubt that the struggle against America, the major imperialist power, will be a protracted one and it is the duty of all those forces dedicated to the overthrow of imperialism, to come together to pool their resources in this fight.

We are prepared to fight, primarily because the imperialists are entrenched in our homeland or are manipulating local puppets within the nation. We are indeed fighting them here in our own territory, but we are also prepared to fight them in any part of the globe. It is a phenomenon that is worldwide and, like a cancer, it must be removed completely otherwise further contamination will result.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, the U.S. administration has adopted a position which hopes to transform the area into its exclusive domain. This must not be allowed to happen and the Libyan Jamahiriya has vowed to confront this erroneous doctrine, by giving support to all progressive forces and governments that are prepared to assert their independence and ward off the talons of the American eagle.

One such country that we support in this way is Nicaragua and in a joint communique issued in Tripoli last week, the two countries underline their commitment to carry out their historic responsibility to battle against imperialism. The foreign minister of Nicaragua, Miguel d'Escoto, met with his opposite number, Abdulati Ubeidi, to cement ties between the two countries.

The Nicaraguan people sent greetings to the Libyan leader of the revolution, Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi, and thanked Libya for its help in toppling the fascist clique which practised dictatorship and terror on the Nicaraguan people.

Libya has taken the principled stand to aid Nicaragua in its fight to preserve its independence, and this meeting with the two foreign ministers cemented the bilateral relations further. In practical terms the two sides agreed to sign new agreements for finance, oil, trade, scientific and cultural co-operation, and programmes to

exchange visits, to consolidate and develop political, economic, cultural and scientific relations.

The communique issued at the end of talks outlined the determination to take a serious position on the growing menace of the Reagan administration. The two sides also reviewed the latest developments in the Middle East and concluded that the imperialist conspiracy, led by the United States against the Palestinian people and the Arab nation, was assuming dangerous dimensions that directly threatened the interests of the Arab nation and undermined world peace. This was further emphasized when the USA announced plans to establish permanent military bases in the region, which are to be used as springboards of aggression and provocation and a nucleus of tension.

The Nicaraguans joined with the Libyan people in condemning these illegal plans and had particularly harsh words for those Arab reactionary regimes, al-Sadat of Egypt most notably, who betrayed the cause of the Palestinian people. In singling out Sadat for special mention, the Nicaraguans scolded the Egyptian traitor for signing the Camp David accords and turning Egyptian Arab territory into a zone of political and military influence for American imperialism and Zionism.

In reassuring Nicaragua of Libya's support and determination, the battlelines are already drawn. The two countries will work together at every international forum to ensure equity, justice and equality for all peoples. Imperialism must be defeated and we leave no stone unturned in joining hands with anyone dedicated to those nations who wish for freedom, to join us in extending this alliance. We welcome Nicaragua's commitment to this struggle.

CSO: 4820

DECISIONS ADOPTED ON DISTRIBUTION TRADE

LD151424 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Mar 81

[Text] In implementation of the resolutions adopted by the basic popular conferences as formulated by the General People's Popular Committee for Economy held an emergency meeting yesterday and adopted a number of executive decisions including some aimed at guaranteeing full control on the distribution trade, in accordance with the following program:

1. Control of the trade for the distribution of clothes, textiles, shoes, electrical and domestic instruments and equipment and car spare parts by 28 March at the latest. The committee decided to consider all licenses for trading in these materials and commodities as cancelled as of that date.
2. Control of the trade for the distribution of meats by 30 April at the latest. The committee decided to consider all licenses for trading in meats as canceled as of that date.
3. Full control of the trade of groceries in towns, streets and quarters where sufficient popular markets exist. All licenses for grocery shops in these places shall be canceled by decisions issued by the Popular Committees for Economy in the municipalities.
4. Cancellation of whatever grocery shops continue to exist after that by 31 December 1981 at the latest.

A JANA correspondent has reported that the General Popular Committee for Economy has made all the necessary preparations to insure the successful implementation of the above with a view to realizing socialism in the field of trade and the elimination of the last vestiges of snares and exploitation in this field.

CSO: 4802

BRIEFS

NEW NAVAL VESSELS--Colonel al-Qadhdhafi this morning took part in celebrations at the Benghazi naval base, marking the addition of new vessels to our military fleet. The three vessels are the submarine al-Mitraqah, the minesweeper al-I'sar and the minesweeper at-Tayyar. [Text] [LD010146 Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland 2315 GMT 30 Mar 81 LD]

AGREEMENT WITH IRELAND--The secretary of the General People's Committee for Education and Albert Reynolds, Ireland's minister of telecommunications and transport, this morning signed minutes of a cooperation agreement between the Libyan Arab and Irish peoples. The minutes of the meeting deal with cooperation between Ireland and the Jamahiriyah in the health, agricultural, telecommunications and transport fields, and with increasing trade exchange. [Text] [Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Mar 81 LD]

CSO: 4802

OIL EXPLORATION RESULTS REPORTED

Results 'Encouraging'

Khartoum SUNA DAILY BULLETIN in English 18 Mar 81 pp 3-4

[Text] Khartoum, March 18 (SUNA) The Managing Director of Chevron Oil Company of Sudan Mr. W. C. Bellenger told SUNA that the company had dug 23 oil wells.

Mr Bellenger disclosed that the results of 9 wells were encouraging. He explained that five of them lie in the unity field with a reserve of 80 million barrels which is enough to meet local consumption needs for 15 years. The other four were in Abu Jabra field, he said.

Mr Bellenger who called on President Nimeri yesterday said he briefed the President on the Company's activities during the past year and the digging programme and other activities for 1981/1982.

Mr Bellenger announced that new discoveries in Talin well indicated encouraging results. He added that the well will be subject to test later this week to determine the output prior to announcement of the final results. The Company has so far spent about \$ 210 million, he said.

Bellenger further said the Kosti oil refinery could increase its capacity of 10,000 barrels a day to 25,000 barrels a day.

Energy and Mining Minister Sherif el Tuhami hinted that work on the refinery is expected to be finalized next year.

Numayri Briefed on Developments

Khartoum SUNA DAILY BULLETIN in English 18 Mar 81 pp 7-8

[Text] Khartoum, March 18 (SUNA)--President Nimeri received at his office yesterday here the Managing Director of Chevron Oil Company of Sudan Mr W. C. Bellenger together with the Company's Public Relations Manager Mr Jose I. Echeverria. Also present at the meeting was Energy and Mining Minister Sharif El Tuhami.

The Minister told SUNA that the President was briefed on the latest developments of all exploration particularly regarding the new discoveries at the Unity well 7 and Talih well, near Unity field.

Dr. Tuhami added that the Chevron officials had explained to the President the work programme up to 1982 including the ongoing operations at Unity, Heglig and the expected operations at Mellot and Sudan areas.

Dr Tuhami said he also briefed President Nimeri on other prospecting programmes like Tital engagements besides the Sudan Group of companies, Public Petroleum Corporation and the International Energy Agency and the negotiations with some other companies bidding to get concession for oil prospecting.

The Minister added that the meeting also touched on mining prospecting which he described as promising.

Dr Tuhami also said he briefed the President on the prospecting and mining agreement at the Red Sea area. The Minister added it was a joint project between the Sudan, Saudi Arabia and France.

When asked whether the visit of the Saudi Oil Minister Ahmed Zeki Yemani, next week, has any connection with this project, Tuhami replied that the Saudi Oil Minister was one of the prominent persons who helped the agreement to become a reality.

Tuhami said that the Saudi Kingdom has granted the Sudan about eleven million dollars. He added that Yemani had helped greatly in negotiating with the French.

Tuhami hoped that the studies and designs of Kosti refinery will be worked out by the end of next April.

In his reply to the question of whether the year 1982 will witness the beginning of commercial utilization of oil, Tuhami said that commercial utilization is being carried on together with the results of exploration.

The Minister of Energy and Mining concluded by saying that the capacity of Kosti refinery will be increased to 25 thousand barrels per day. "We have started and we will carry on forward," Tuhami said, "It is not something to be completed overnight."

CSO: 4820

PRESS CONFERENCE HELD ON REFUGEE PROBLEM

Khartoum SUNA DAILY BULLETIN in English 19 Mar 81 pp 8-9

[Text] Khartoum, March 19 (SUNA)--In addition to the 500,000 refugees Sudan also hosts 4 million immigrants from different African countries. 2 1/2 million out of those are from Chad.

The figure was announced by State Foreign Minister Mohamed Mirghani who explained that,

"There are big numbers who are not registered. They include not only those who are here running away from political conditions but there are others who fled their countries from poverty on starvation and thus are not included within the international definition of refugees. The figure include Africans who have not obtained the Sudanese nationality."

The bulk of the refugees have come from Ethiopia, Chad and Uganda, he added.

Although only 250 refugees have returned home in the eastern flank, but diplomatic efforts might result in the return of greater numbers, said Minister of Internal Affairs Ahmed Abdel Rahman.

Referring to the 4 million Africans who settled in Sudan, Internal Minister said Sudan had been a cross road for African pilgrims heading for Mecca by ships, though travelling by planes has put an end to this phenomenon. The impact of those who settled is felt in the exhaustion of public utilities and increase in rate of crime.

On Sudan's attitude towards solving the problem, Mirghani said Sudan is committed to the OAU charter and did not allow refugees to exercise any activity against their home countries.

Regarding the Eritrean question, he added Sudan was endeavouring to bring peace to the region by unifying the Eritrean factions, "our relations with Ethiopia are good."

With respect to the Ugandan refugees an inter-border committee was established as soon as the new government took office, he said.

In the case of Chad, Sudan, in collaboration with the OAU will endeavour to achieve national unity when the atmosphere is convenient, he added.

As regards plans devised to accommodate refugees, Internal Minister said a Ls. 93,000,000 programme is under way.

Commenting on Sudan's position towards Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, Mirghani said Sudan's condemnation of that intervention is based on the basis of its foreign policy that rejects interference by any country in other's affairs.

The UNHCR provides a considerable part of refugees aid beside the contribution of voluntary agencies from Sweden and U.S.A., indicated the Interior Minister.

Comparing the miserable condition of African refugees, though they constitute more than half of the world 8 million refugees, great moral material and publicity support are offered to non-African refugees, Interior Minister said Sudan's attitude to this effect is inspired by humanitarian factors.

Mirghani proposed that the international press should call for establishing a special fund for African refugees.

Referring to President Nimeri's appeal for Arab funds to extend aid to refugees in Sudan since most of them are moslems, Internal Minister said a special fund was established for that purpose and fund raising campaign is underway. The recent Islamic summit, he added, endorsed the establishment of a refugees relief agency and the Islamic Development Bank provided assistance for Ugandan refugees.

The two Ministers were speaking yesterday to representatives of local and some European and American press institutions who arrived here within a tour preparing for an international conference for refugees relief to convene in Geneva April 9-10.

Culture and Information Minister Ismail El Hag Musa introduced the Ministers.

CSO: 4820

NEW POLICY PLANNED FOR SPECIALIZED BANKS

Khartoum SUNA DAILY BULLETIN in English 19 Mar 81 p 4

[Text] Khartoum, March 19 (SUNA)--A new policy for specialized banks would be effected as from next July, said Finance and National Economy Minister Badr Eddin Suleiman.

The new policy focuses on extending loans to small-scale industrialists, craftsmen and farmers besides other petty producers.

The Minister described the new policy as an instrument to realize social justice and redistribute revenues to the advantage of the poor.

He maintained that the activity of the specialized banks is primarily social and political and the demands of them to function as revolutionary tools that help innovate the economic, social and political walks of life.

All regulations, administrative frames and laws that govern the performance and functioning of specialized banks would be changed in order to realize the new policy and the Finance Ministry would increase the capitals of these banks and furnish them with extra facilities and loans from local and foreign resources, he said.

Stressing the question of guarantees the Minister said his Ministry would bear 80 percent of the guarantees and affirmed that petty producers would be given loans irrespective of guarantees because the whole country depends upon small industrialists, farmers and craftsmen. Loans should not be an easy privilege of brokers, dignitaries and owners of guarantees, he affirmed.

The Minister was speaking during his visits yesterday to the employees of the Agricultural and Industrial Banks.

CSO: 4820

BRIEFS

SUDAN AIRWAYS' FUTURE PLANS--Khartoum, March 7 (SUNA)--The Sudan Airways Corporation General Manager recently said the Corporation is on the verge of completing studies dealing with the replacement of its operating Boeing 707 planes with more advanced types. Many of the regulations safeguarding aviation prevents the flying of these planes by the year 1985, he said. The Corporation is currently collecting data on European Air-bus company and on the Tri-Star plane which is manufactured by Lockheed International Inc. Both the Tri-Star and Air-bus planes are extra wide-bodied and could take in as many as 200-300 passengers, he concluded. On the other hand, the Khartoum airport will be partially closed down for air traffic for one month as from next April, 18, for maintenance and repair works, according to an authoritative source in the Civil Aviation. The completion of this project would allow the landing of the proposed new planes the Sudan Airways Corporation is planning to purchase. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA DAILY BULLETIN in English 7 Mar 81 p 1]

AID PROTOCOL WITH NETHERLANDS--Khartoum, Feb 19 (SUNA)--The Sudan-Netherlands 1981 Protocol for technical and economic cooperation was signed at the National Planning Ministry here yesterday morning. According to the Protocol, the Netherlands would provide an aid of 44 million guilders (\$22 million) to consolidate the Sudan's financial stabilization policies. Eighty percent of this grant would be utilized for completion of some infrastructure and energy projects that include El Fashio-Nyala Road, Kassala Power station and the integrated rural development projects in the Southern Region and El Fashir area. Forty percent of the grant would be used to offset the balance of payments. This would be utilized in the import of production requirements such as fertilizers, fats, vegetable seeds, building materials and animal vaccines. National Planning Minister Nasr Eddin Mustafa signed for Sudan while Dr A. Pypers from the Dutch Foreign Ministry, currently leading a delegation to Sudan, signed for the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The two sides, had held a week-long series of negotiating which was crowned with this agreement. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA DAILY BULLETIN in English 19 Feb 81 p 1]

FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO SOUTH--Juba, Feb 20 (SUNA)--The Central Government has agreed to extend Ls. 7.2 million annually to the Southern Region to meet the costs of petroleum products, joint development projects and other expenses, said Vice-President of the High Executive Council for the Southern Region and Regional Minister for Finance and Economic Planning Peter Gatkouth. The Central Government also agreed to extend Ls. 1.2 million in hard currency, annually to the Regions purchase office at the Sudan Embassy in Nairobi. On the other hand, the Minister called on businessmen to contribute to the development of the Region adding that the Regional government would render possible facilities for the investment of their funds. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA DAILY BULLETIN in English 20 Feb 81 pp 2-3]

AID AGREEMENT WITH SWITZERLAND--Khartoum, Feb 22 (SUNA)--Headed by Finance Under-Secretary Fawzi Wasfi, a Sudanese delegation leaves here today (Sunday) for Switzerland to sign the Aid Agreement extended to Sudan by the Swiss Government. The 12-million Swiss franc Aid, \$ 7 million, would be utilized in the import of agro-industry inputs and other manufactured goods. From there Wasfi would proceed for Tunis to head the Sudan's delegation to the 30th session of the Arab Socio-Economic Council, scheduled for February 23-28. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA DAILY BULLETIN in English 22 Feb 81 p 2]

POPULAR DEFENSE FORCES--Khartoum, Feb 22 (SUNA)--First Vice-President General Abdel Magid Hamid Khalil yesterday issued the decree No (37), 1981 on setting up the Popular Defence Forces. According to the decree: (a) The former National Guard Command is to be called the General Administration for Popular Defence. (b) Headquarters of the Administration is to be at Wad Medani town. (c) General (P.S.C.) Hassan El Nur Khami former Commander of the National Guard be appointed Commander of the Popular Defence Forces. (e) [sic] The Popular Defence Administration is to shoulder the responsibility of implementing the Popular Forces Defence Act, 1981. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA DAILY BULLETIN in English 22 Feb 81 p 3]

MILLING SYSTEMS COMPANY--Khartoum, Feb 26 (SUNA)--The Sudan Development Corporation, the Danish Industrialization Fund for Developing Countries (I.F.U.), Sunrise Modern Flour Mills, Public Social Insurance Institution and United Milling System of Denmark signed agreements yesterday to form a joint venture company to be named, SUDANESE MILLING SYSTEMS COMPANY LIMITED. The mill is expected to have a yearly capacity of 8000 tons of sorghum producing 6000 tons flour and 2000 tons bran. Extraction rate is 75 percent. The project is to be located in Wad Medani. The total cost estimated amounts to L.s. 667,000 of which L.s. 327,000 (49 percent) is in foreign currency. The project is expected to be completed by the end of 1981 and to create employment opportunity for 30 persons. It is worth mentioning that the concept of this pioneer project is based on the findings of a research programme carried out by the Food Research Centre of Shambat, in cooperation with the Food Industries and Agricultural Organization (F.A.O.). The idea is to treat sorghum and grind it to required specifications so that a better quality of sorghum flour is obtained for traditional uses and for mixing it with wheat flour for the making of bread and confectionaries. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA DAILY BULLETIN in English 26 Feb 81 p 5]

CSO: 4820

OFFSHORE OIL PROJECTS UNDER WAY

Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS in English 3 Apr 81 p 1

[Text]

Dubai, March 2 (EN) His Highness President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan inaugurated the construction of a major project here today to develop three offshore oil fields - Safer, Dohia and Jassan - to produce an estimated 60,000 barrels per day by 1984.

The project will also include construction of an oil plant for oil collection to be linked with the rigs with pipelines.

The plant, housing and recreational facilities for what may be termed an oil city, will be constructed over an area of 940,000 square metres on the eastern strip of the island occupying approximately 4 per cent of the island's total area.

Provision has also been made for various facilities which will

accompany the construction of the project such as advanced communications, electricity, a modern road network and amenities for permanent staff which will operate the installation after it is completed by the end of 1984.

The project will undoubtedly have an impact on the social and economic conditions of the nearly 2,000 inhabitants living on Dohia.

The inaugural ceremony was also attended by Vice-President and Prime Minister His Highness Sheikh Rashid bin Saad Al Maktoum; Chamberlain of the Presidential Court Sheikh Saoud bin Mohamed, Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Dr. Mansour Saad Al Otaiba and a large gathering of citizens.

Speaking at the function, Dr. Otaiba

emphasized the social, economic and general development benefits which will be reaped by the locals here, stressing the government's intention to pursue further efforts to convert the island into an oil industry base and a major pillar of the country's economy.

After laying the foundation stone, President Sheikh Zayed urged speeding up the completion of the project and pledged support to all efforts in this direction.

The 700 million dollar project, also includes the construction of a jetty for unloading of equipment, materials, food stuffs and other provisions.

It will be executed by Umm Al Dahi Development Company (UDECO) which was jointly established by ADNOC and Japan Oil Development Company (JODCO) in 1979.

The two companies signed an agreement earlier this year under which JODCO is to spend 400 million dollars on the project, the share of ADNOC to be paid over five years.

Project Manager Elhami Obaid Mahmoud told "Emirates News" that in selecting the island for construction of the project the social and economic benefits to the local population was a decisive factor.

Sheikh Zayed, accompanied by Sheikh Rashid, later toured the island and inspected its various public utilities.

DESTROYED FREIGHTER SAID NOT TO CARRY NUCLEAR WASTE

London 8 DAYS in English 28 Mar 81 pp 44-45

[Article by Nigel Ash]

[Text]

THE RUSTED, burnt-out hulk of the *MV Fraternity* makes a sad spectacle as it lies at anchor in the port of Karachi, waiting to make its final voyage to the breakers' yard. But events since its destruction by fire in the Red Sea a year ago have caused more of a stir than anything in its 18 years of general cargo trading.

Last October, after the destroyed ship had been towed to the Gulf, teleaxes flew around the world with the news that in her holds she carried nuclear waste. According to the reports the dangerous cargo was originally destined for Egypt but was 'rerouted for secret unloading' at Sharjah in the UAE 'and burial in the desert by an unnamed individual'.

The true story is a little different. It began on 15 March 1980 when fire broke out in the *Fraternity's* number one hold while she was heading down the Red Sea with general cargo picked up from Hamburg, Rotterdam, Bremen, Newcastle and Antwerp, bound for Karachi and then Bombay.

The cause of the fire was probably volatile laboratory chemicals destined for Karachi university. Also in the number one hold were insecticides (fenthion), pesticides and chemicals used in plastics manufacture which qualified for stowage and handling under Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organisation (IMCO) rules.

The Greek crew rushed for help and were then forced to abandon ship. The Singapore registered tug *Salvanquish* came alongside and managed to put out the fire with water, but not before the blaze had skipped between decks to the second and third holds and gutted the crew

accommodation. The 10,000 tonne ship was towed to Djibouti where a not untypical wrangle began between the salvors and the ship's owners, Fraternity Shipping Corporation, registered at a 'convenience' address in Broad Street, Monrovia, the capital of Liberia.

The hull insurers at Lloyd's had accepted by April 1980 that the *Fraternity* was a 'constructive total loss' — damaged beyond repair — and paid out around \$2m. However it was not until last October that Selco (Private) Singapore, the owners of the tug *Salvanquish*, had their salvage claim settled.

On 10 October the *Fraternity* was sold to a company called Tor Bay Shipping, which has a 'friendly relationship' with a Swiss company called Gran Inter of Geneva. Don Jones, a director of Gran Inter, told 8 DAYS that his company was only managing the hulk of the *Fraternity* on behalf of Tor Bay, but did not deny a suggestion that Tor Bay shipping was actually an associate company of Gran Inter.

Tor Bay had also purchased the damaged part of the cargo. Jones said there were 715 separate bills of lading for goods that included machinery, trucks, cars, bulldozers, steel plates, cotton waste, shoes, 'Unesco material', clothes, TV tubes and milk powder. However he strongly denied there was anything on board that resembled nuclear waste.

Gran Inter engaged the *Salvanquish* to tow the *Fraternity 1* — now a dead ship without any power, which meant her own unloading winches would not work — to Sharjah, in the Gulf. Jones was responsible for the choice of port: 'I could have chosen any one of a dozen places in the Gulf which had the facilities and labour for unloading this ship. Had we taken it to, say, Liverpool,

dockers would have demanded dirty money to do the work.

The *Fraternity 1* arrived in Sharjah on 2 November last year. *Lloyd's List* reported that discharge of the cargo from the undamaged two aft holds began soon after the ship arrived but the operation had to be suspended for a time because the trim of the ship became dangerous.

Gran Inter engaged an internationally renowned chemical consultant, Dr Reginald Milton, to fly from London to examine the cargo.

Dr Milton, who spent three weeks in Sharjah from mid-November told *8 Days*: 'I was called in to make sure that during the discharge of the chemicals, no one was injured. He added, 'I went through the ship's manifest and bills of lading with a fine tooth comb and I am definite that there was no nuclear waste aboard. I inspected all five holds. Had nuclear waste been there, I would have been dead by now.'

Gran Inter had come to an arrangement with the cargo insurers to forward the undamaged goods from the two aft holds to their destinations in Karachi and Bombay. This was done after the cargo had been transhipped into two other vessels, the *Hadi* and the *P. Arid*. The fire-damaged cargo from holds two and three were discharged at Sharjah. It was when the chemicals from the first hold were being unloaded into barges that disaster struck.

Dr Milton believes that a lighted cigarette, tossed carelessly into one of the barges, sparked off a fire, the smoke from which could be seen for miles around. It was at this stage that the UAE authorities began to take alarm. They ordered the *Fraternity 1* to leave UAE waters.

The ship was towed to Ras al Khaimah further along the coast but the port authorities there refused to allow it to unload. The *Fraternity 1* was then towed back to Sharjah to reload the chemicals that had been put ashore from its forward hold. The authorities wanted them taken away.

In its death the *Fraternity* had become most unwanted. It was after the fire on the loaded barge that the first rumours about a 'secret cargo' began. A story filed from Beirut to European papers said that a British scientist had inspected the cargo and stated that 'the ship was loaded with a substance not recorded in any international catalogue of chemicals or medicaments'.

Interpol were reported to have taken charge of the ship after it had been towed out into international waters of the Indian Ocean. Jones was described as the ship's clerk, the crew had disappeared mysteriously and other unsubstantiated allegations were published in the report.

The *Fraternity 1* was in fact towed to the Indian Ocean in February, but it was on Gran Inter's orders. It arrived at Karachi port on 28 February.

LAW COVERING LABORERS IN 'REMOTE AREAS' ISSUED

Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS in English 6 Apr 81 p 3

[Text]

Dubai, April 5 (WAM) Labour and Social Welfare Minister Saif Al Jarwan today issued a decree defining remote areas and making it incumbent on employers to provide certain amenities and services to their employees at work sites in such localities.

The order defines a remote area as a place which is not less than 25 kilometres from the nearest town or village where public transport service does not reach.

The decree listed 38 remote areas, of which 22, including Deima Island, Giyathi, Dhafra, Samha and Al Wajan, are in Abu Dhabi region; and 16, including Hamrania, Humaidia, Tawabin and Al Basna, in the Northern Emirates.

The services an employer must

provide in these areas include transport, lodging, first aid and sports and recreation facilities, all at his own expense. As regards foodstuffs, the employer has to provide them, but they must be paid for by the workman.

The Minister issued another decision specifying the fields on which fines deducted from the labourers, as stipulated by the labour law, are to be spent. According to the decision, the fines will be spent on labour social welfare activities.

The decision also stipulated the keeping of a special register in every firm in which the fines deducted are to be entered. A committee comprising over 15 labourers are to supervise the expenditure of the fine

collection, which is to be used in setting up a sports club, a mosque, a library, a pharmacy, a cooperative society or to be employed in providing medical treatment for labourers' families where their treatment at the expense of the employer is not compulsory.

Where the firm employs less than 15 labourers, the expenditure of the fines will be undertaken by the proprietor and will take the form of remuneration, the purchase of items needed by the labourers or investment in a commercial enterprise. The decision also explains the method of distributing such money when the firm is liquidated.

CSO: 4820

DUBAI SHEIKH SUED FOR INTEREST ON LOAN

London 8 DAYS in English 28 Mar 81 p 57

[Text]

THE ISSUE of bank interest in Islamic countries is being brought up in London and the United Arab Emirates with the start of a British High Court case between a Dubai sheikh and a number of UAE and international banks.

The case, which concerns the alleged non-payment of interest and principal on a \$16m syndicated loan, is one that involves the National Bank of Abu Dhabi, majority owned by the Abu Dhabi government.

The question of bank interest has been the subject of a number of legal cases in the UAE, revolving around the conflict between traditional Islamic attitudes and European law. Dubai has normally had a more commercial attitude to interest rates than Abu Dhabi. But the chairman of the Central Bank of the UAE has said to the judiciary that interest can be sued for.

The case involves Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa al Maktoum, who in 1978 took a \$16m syndicated loan for the construction of a shop and office complex in Diera souk in Dubai, at the very high spread of 2.25 per cent above Libor.

The syndicated loan was signed by the National Bank of Abu Dhabi, the Emirates National Bank, the Arab African International Bank of Cairo, the Union Bank of the Middle East of Dubai, Banco Espanol and the Uban Arab Japanese Finance Company of Hong Kong.

A meeting of the banks involved was held at the beginning of February and notification was received that the client intended to institute legal proceedings in Abu Dhabi, though the loan was signed in Dubai, requesting a rescheduling of the loan and absolution, on religious grounds, from the requirement to pay interest.

The banks themselves responded by instituting legal proceedings in the High Court in London, seeking summary judgment on the basis that the loan agreement was governed by English law.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

BRIEFS

AGRICULTURAL PROGRESS REPORTED--After ten years of experimentation, the French state oil company, Compagnie Francaise des Petroles (CFP) has devised a successful system of growing fruit and vegetables in the UAE desert. The venture was initiated in 1972 when CFP persuaded Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al Nahayyan to allow the company to set up an experimental agricultural centre at Maziad al Ain. CFP wanted to acquire oil concessions in the UAE, and the venture was a demonstration that France was willing to help with the emirates' agricultural development. For the UAE the centre was a means by which it could reduce its dependence on food imports. Because of the unfavourable climate, the French technicians have been experimenting with shaded greenhouses and plastic covering. In shaded greenhouses the growing temperature has been reduced substantially and record crops of cucumbers (600 tonnes per hectare) and tomatoes (400 tonnes per hectare) have been harvested. Plastic covering has proved less successful than glass, but is much cheaper. Water is tapped from subsoil deposits and the plants are fed by drip irrigation with soluble fertiliser. The French National Institute of Agronomic Research has provided technical expertise. The UAE has been heavily dependent on Europe, Jordan and Lebanon for its imports of fruit and vegetables. It hopes to open new agricultural research centres, and eventually become self-sufficient. As far as CFP is concerned, the Maziad al Ain station has enabled it to become a pioneer in desert agriculture technology. [Text] [London 8 DAYS in English 28 Mar 81 p 53]

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